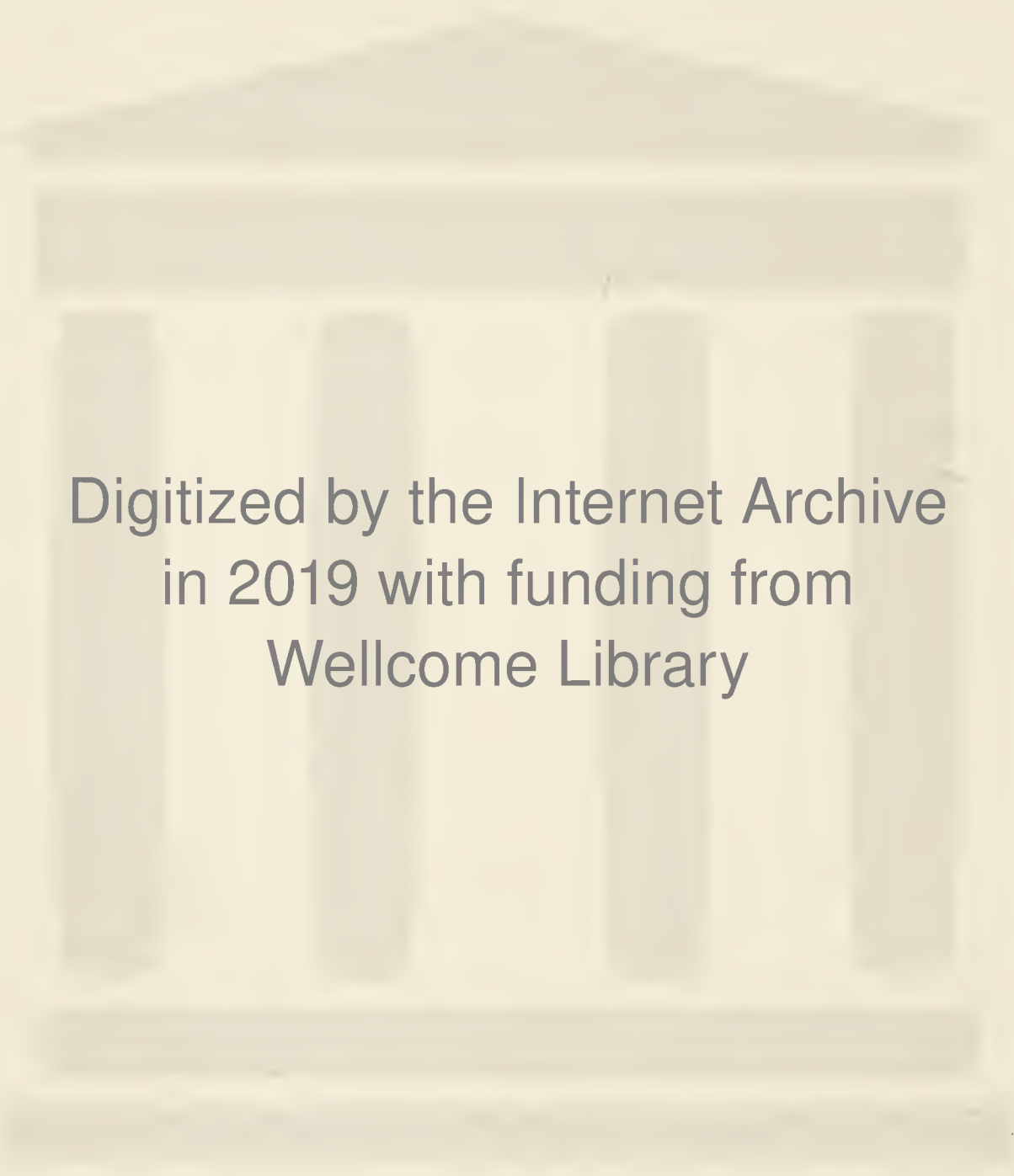


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THE
ANNUAL REGISTER,
OR A VIEW OF THE
HISTORY,
POLITICS,
AND
LITERATURE,
For the YEAR 1817.



LONDON:

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P R E F A C E.

ONE of the most remarkable occurrences in the domestic history of the year 1817 was the double renewal of the bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, moved first in the two Houses near the close of February, and afterwards, upon a fresh alarm, in the month of June. The majorities by which these measures were carried sufficiently indicated the affright which was spread through the most opulent, and the most timorous, class of the nation; at the same time the number was not inconsiderable of those who held firmly to the maintenance of laws which were regarded as the palladium of English liberty. The termination of these disputes threw a degree of discredit upon the ministry, who, by the employment of spies, seemed to aggravate the discontents which were already too prevalent among the inferior ranks of the people.

The preceding year had afforded a happy augury to the nation, in the union of the daughter of the Prince Regent to Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, which promised a lasting source of domestic felicity. The connexion was blest with a hope of progeny, which was brought to maturity early in November; but, to the unspeakable disappointment of the general expectation, the Princess sunk under the effort, and after having been the mother of a dead child, became herself the victim. The public feeling was scarcely ever

marked by a more universal mourning ; and the year concluded with every expression of regret and commiseration from a people actuated by a congenial sentiment.

In the rest of Europe little has occurred to disturb the general tranquillity. By an official note from the allied courts presented to the Duke de Richelieu, notice was given of their intention considerably to reduce the army by which France was occupied, reckoning from the first of April of the current year ; and there is reason to expect that a similar diminution will take place, till the French nation is entirely relieved from the load under which it has long laboured.

Spain has partaken in some degree of the disorders which, from the time of the king's return, has kept her in agitation. In January, the cry of *the constitution* was raised in the city of Valencia, said to have been in consequence of a tax on coals. The vigour of General Elio, however, soon brought it to a close. In Barcelona a much more dangerous conspiracy was planned in the beginning of April, of which the Generals Lacy and Milans were the leaders. The captain-general of the province, having obtained timely notice of the plot, put the troops in motion, and a few hours were sufficient to restore tranquillity. Lacy, who was taken prisoner, was condemned by a court-martial, and was sent as a captive to Majorca, where an attempt to escape from his guard was the cause of his death.

The Brazilian government, now identified with that of Portugal, during the course of the last year had sent an army to take possession of the Spanish territory

tory of Montevideo. The courts of Austria, Great Britain, Prussia, Russia, and France, on being informed of this singular transaction, addressed a strong memorial to the government of Portugal and Brazil, in which they informed his most Faithful Majesty that it was impossible for them to look upon the aggression committed against Spain in any other light than as an act of hostility. In the mean time an insurrection broke out at Pernambuco, a province of Brazil, which assumed a serious aspect, being chiefly encouraged among the officers of Olinda and Recife. A battle, however, in which the royal forces entirely defeated the insurgents, soon put an end to the insurrection; and the result of the application of the European courts has not yet been given to the public.

Some time after, Portugal itself was threatened with a revolution, the purpose of which was to establish a government for that country, independent of South America. Its principal promoters were the Lieutenant-general Gomez Freres de Andrade, and the Baron d'Eben; but before all the preparations had been made, the whole plot was discovered, and an arrest took place of the persons concerned. The very slow procedure of the German states, and the apparent reluctance of several of the members to join in establishing the principles of free government, has thrown back to another year the general result of their deliberations; nor does it yet appear how soon a desirable conclusion can be brought to effect. Financial difficulties occur in several of the states; and till they are settled, it seems in vain to expect a satisfactory solution of their embroiled affairs. Prussia,

in particular, is said to be much incensed against the excuses and tergiversations of France; and where the stronger power is reduced to plead an impossibility of fulfilling her engagements, the weaker power can scarcely avoid a forced submission.

The King of Wurtemburgh has found it necessary to dissolve the assembly of his states, in consequence of their refusal to confirm a constitution proposed to them by his Majesty; and he took into his own hands the administration of the finances for the years 1817 and 1818.

The duchy of Saxe Weimar seems to have been the only German state which has hitherto declared its adhesion to the true principles of a free constitution; and a proposition moved by the reigning Duke to the diet of the empire sitting at Frankfort was formally placed under the guaranty of the German Confederation by a vote given by Austria, and afterwards concurred in by the other powers.

A speech delivered by the president Mr. Monroe to the American Congress, on the second of December, announced that the revenue arising from imports and tonnage, with that from the sale of the public lands, would be fully adequate to the support of the civil government, of the military and naval establishment, and of the payment of the public debt, without the aid of internal taxes; for which reason the President recommended their repeal to the Congress. It was perhaps scarcely expected, that so soon after a war, the national balance would appear in a condition which would admit of so favourable a statement.

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THE
ANNUAL REGISTER,
For the Year 1817.

GENERAL HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

The Prince Regent's Speech.—Insults offered him.—His Message to both Houses of Parliament.—Taken into Consideration by the Houses of Lords and Commons, and a Secret Committee appointed in each.—Report from the Committee in each House.

PRINCE REGENT'S SPEECH.

ON January 28th, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent opened the Parliament with the following Speech.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ It is with deep regret that I am again obliged to announce to you, that no alteration has occurred in the state of his Majesty's lamented indisposition.

“ I continue to receive from foreign powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards this country, and of their earnest desire to maintain the general tranquillity.

“ The hostilities to which I was compelled to resort, in vindication
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of the honour of the country against the government of Algiers, have been attended with the most complete success.

“ The splendid achievement of his Majesty's fleet, in conjunction with a squadron of the king of the Netherlands, under the gallant and able conduct of Adm. Viscount Exmouth, led to the immediate and unconditional liberation of all Christian captives then within the territory of Algiers, and to the renunciation by its government of the practice of Christian slavery.

“ I am persuaded that you will be duly sensible of the importance of an arrangement so interesting to humanity, and reflecting, from the manner in which it has been
[B] accomplished,

accomplished, such signal honour on the British nation.

“ In India, the refusal of the government of Nepaul to ratify a treaty of peace which had been signed by its plenipotentiaries, occasioned a renewal of military operations.

“ The judicious arrangements of the governor-general, seconded by the bravery and perseverance of his Majesty’s forces, and of those of the East-India company, brought the campaign to a speedy and successful issue; and peace has been finally established upon the just and honourable terms of the original treaty.

“ Gentlemen of the House of Commons ;

“ I have directed the estimates for the current year to be laid before you.

“ They have been formed upon a full consideration of all the present circumstances of the country, with an anxious desire to make every reduction in our establishments which the safety of the empire and sound policy allow.

“ I recommend the state of the public income and expenditure to your early and serious attention.

“ I regret to be under the necessity of informing you, that there has been a deficiency in the produce of the revenue in the last year : but I trust that it is to be ascribed to temporary causes ; and I have the consolation to believe, that you will find it practicable to provide for the public service of the year, without making any addition to the burthens of the people, and without adopting any measure injurious to that system by which the public credit of the country has been hitherto sustained.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ I have the satisfaction of informing you that the arrangements which were made in the last session of parliament, with a view to a new silver coinage, have been completed with unprecedented expedition.

“ I have given directions for the immediate issue of the new coin, and I trust that this measure will be productive of considerable advantages to the trade and internal transactions of the country.

“ The distresses consequent upon the termination of a war of such unusual extent and duration have been felt, with greater or less severity, throughout all the nations of Europe ; and have been considerably aggravated by the unfavourable state of the season.

“ Deeply as I lament the pressure of these evils upon the country, I am sensible that they are of a nature not to admit of an immediate remedy ; but whilst I observe with peculiar satisfaction the fortitude with which so many privations have been borne, and the active benevolence which has been employed to mitigate them, I am persuaded that the great sources of our national prosperity are essentially unimpaired ; and I entertain a confident expectation that the native energy of the country will at no distant period surmount all the difficulties in which we are involved.

“ In considering our internal situation, you will, I doubt not, feel a just indignation at the attempts which have been made to take advantage of the distresses of the country, for the purpose of exciting a spirit of sedition and violence.

“ I am

“ I am too well convinced of the loyalty and good sense of the great body of his Majesty's subjects, to believe them capable of being perverted by the arts which are employed to seduce them ; but I am determined to omit no precautions for preserving the public peace, and for counteracting the designs of the disaffected. And I rely with the utmost confidence on your cordial support and co-operation, in upholding a system of law and government, from which we have derived inestimable advantages, which has enabled us to conclude, with unexampled glory, a contest whereon depended the best interests of mankind, and which has been hitherto felt by ourselves, as it is acknowledged by other nations, to be the most perfect that has ever fallen to the lot of any people.”

His Royal Highness then retired, and their lordships adjourned till five o'clock.

After the Prince Regent had withdrawn,

Lord Viscount Sidmouth rose and announced, that before any other matter could be entered upon by the House of Lords, he had one of the most important communications to be made to them that had ever been laid before Parliament. Accordingly, after the strangers had withdrawn, he informed them, that when the Prince Regent was returning from the House, and passing at the back of the garden of Carlton-House, the glass of the carriage had been broken by a stone, or by two balls from an air-gun, which appeared to have been aimed at his Royal Highness. In the result, a conference was desired to be held with the House of Commons, at which an Address

to his Royal Highness was agreed upon, congratulating him upon his escape.

The further proceedings upon this subject will appear in the Chronicle of the present year.

On January 29th, the Speech of the Prince Regent was taken into consideration by the House of Lords. The *Earl of Dartmouth* first moved an address of thanks, which was in the usual form, and was seconded by the *Earl of Rothes*.

Earl Grey then rose, and began with declaring his full assent to that part of the speech which gave a tribute of applause to the noble admiral, and his officers and seamen, who were engaged in the expedition against Algiers ; at the same time he could not refrain from doubting how far the advantages arising from the enterprize would be adequate to its expense, or to its future security. With respect to the termination of a remote war in India, he conceived it rather too much to ask at the present moment for an opinion concerning the cause and necessity of a war, when, to the best of his knowledge, no information had been laid before their lordships on the subject.

Passing over these topics, the Earl proceeded to take into his consideration the speech from the throne, and the speeches of other noble lords, respecting the probable continuation of peace. The system of policy on which this confidence was founded, appeared to him, instead of tending to secure this end, fraught with the greatest danger to the peace of Europe. This idea he pursued through various consequences ; and with regard to the policy which we had adopted relative to the

French nation, he said, that instead of having reduced its power within moderate limits, we had generated in them an implacable spirit of animosity, the end of which would probably be, that having placed and supported the present family on the throne of France, that family must ultimately re-establish its power by going to war with this country.

His lordship then went on to consider, what he regarded as the most important subject of attention in our present circumstances, our internal situation. This he contrasted with all that had taken place in former cases, in order to shew the much greater difficulties we had now to encounter; and this led him to the question of a reduction of the national expenditure. After various views on the subject, he said, this and the other House of Parliament must impose on the ministers the duty of retrenchment. We must insist on a retrenchment very different from that adverted to in the speech from the throne. We must insist upon a rigid unsparing economy, an economy founded not on what sound policy requires, but on what necessity will admit; not on what government would have, but on what the country can afford. If we cannot extend the means to meet the expense of the establishments, we must contract the establishments to meet the means.

His lordship concluded a long speech, by proposing the following amendment:

“That we have seen with the deepest concern the continued embarrassments of our agriculture, manufactures, and commerce; the alarming deficiency of the revenue, and the unexampled and increas-

ing distresses of all classes of his Majesty's faithful subjects.

“That we are willing to indulge the hope that these distresses may be found, in part, to have originated from circumstances of a temporary nature, and that some alleviation of them may be produced by the continuance of peace; but that we should ill discharge our duty to his Royal Highness, and be guilty of countenancing a most dangerous delusion, were we to conceal from him our opinion, that the pressure which now weighs so heavily on the resources of the country, is much more extensive in its operation, more severe in its effects, more deep and general in its causes, and more difficult to be removed, than that which has prevailed at the termination of any former war.

“That we are firmly persuaded that the same exemplary patience and fortitude with which all ranks have hitherto borne the difficulties under which they labour, will continue to support them under such burthens as may be found indispensably necessary for the unavoidable exigencies of the public service; but that to maintain this disposition, it is incumbent on parliament, by a severe and vigilant exercise of its powers to prove that sacrifices, so painfully obtained, are strictly limited to the real necessities of the state.

“That while we acknowledge the gracious dispositions announced in his Royal Highness's speech from the throne, we cannot help expressing our regret that his Royal Highness should not have been sooner advised to adopt measures of the most rigid economy and retrenchment, particularly with respect to our military establishments.

ments. That to prompt and effectual reductions in this and every other branch of the public expenditure, this House must naturally look, as the first step to relieve the distresses and redress the grievances of which the people so justly complain; and that to enable themselves to assist his Royal Highness by their advice in the execution of a duty so imperiously called for by the present situation of the country, they will lose no time in instituting a strict inquiry into the state of the nation."

The speakers who successively followed were the Earl of Harrowby, Earl Grosvenor, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord St. John, Earl Bathurst, the Marquis Wellesley, Viscount Sidmouth and the Earl of Darnley. It will scarcely be necessary to remark that the ministers and their opponents widely differed in the conclusions they were led to draw from the premises. The question was then put, and the amendment being negatived without a division, the Address was agreed to.

In the House of Commons an amendment exactly of the same import was moved by Mr. Ponsonby, to an address to be presented to the Prince Regent. It engaged many of the principal speakers on both sides, among whom were Mr. Bathurst, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Charles Grant, Mr. Curwen, Mr. Bankes, Mr. Canning, Mr. Brougham, and Mr. Tierney. The amendment was rejected by 264 to 112, and the original motion was then carried.

PRINCE REGENT'S MESSAGE.

On Feb. 3d, the Prince Regent sent to each House of Parlia-

ment a message to the following purpose:

"His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, has given orders that there be laid before the House papers containing information respecting certain practices, meetings, and combinations in the metropolis, and in different parts of the kingdom, evidently calculated to endanger the public tranquillity, to alienate the affections of his Majesty's subjects from his Majesty's person and government, and to bring into hatred and contempt the whole system of our laws and constitution. His Royal Highness recommends to the House to take these papers into their immediate and serious consideration."

On February 4th, *Lord Sidmouth* rose in the House of Lords to propose an answer to this communication. If the answer should be, as he did not question that it would, an agreement with his Royal Highness's proposal, it was his own intention to refer the message to a committee of secrecy; and all he had to desire, was that their lordships would abstain from making up their minds till they were in possession of the information which was to be laid before them. One remark he further had to make, which was, that the present communication was in no degree the consequence of the shameful outrage on the Prince, which was viewed, not only by the parliament, but by the great body of the people, with detestation and horror. He concluded with moving an address of thanks to the Prince Regent for his message.

In

In some of the subsequent speeches, hints were pretty plainly thrown out of a secret intention in the ministers to shackle the liberty of the subject. At present, however, they kept warily on their ground, and the address was carried unanimously.

Lord Sidmouth then moved that the papers on the table should be referred to a committee of secrecy consisting of eleven lords to be chosen by ballot; which was agreed to.

In the House of Commons, *Lord Castlereagh* made a parallel motion respecting the Prince Regent's message, which was carried without opposition; as was likewise that of a secret committee consisting of twenty-one members.

On the 18th and 19th of February, the secret committee in each House made its report of the contents of the papers communicated by the Prince Regent.

The substance of each was nearly alike; but it will probably be more interesting to our readers if we place both of them in their view.

House of Lords.

By the Lords Committees appointed a Secret Committee to inquire into certain Meetings and Combinations endangering the public tranquillity, and to report to the House as they shall see occasion:

Ordered to report, that the committee have met, and have proceeded in the examination of the papers referred to them.

Their attention was in the first instance directed to those which relate to the metropolis; and they have found therein such evidence as leaves no doubt in their minds that a traitorous conspiracy has

been formed in the metropolis for the purpose of overthrowing, by means of a general insurrection, the established government, laws, and constitution of this kingdom, and of effecting a general plunder and division of property.

In the last autumn various consultations were held by persons in the metropolis engaged in this conspiracy. Different measures of the most extensive and dangerous nature were resolved upon; partial preparations were made for their execution, and various plans were discussed for collecting a force sufficient for that purpose. But at a subsequent consultation another plan was adopted, which was, to get a great number of men together to see what force could be raised; and it was agreed that the best way to get them together would be to call a public meeting. — Spa-Fields was fixed upon as the place affording the greatest facilities for entering the town, and attacking the most important points in the city. In pursuance of this design, and in order to assemble in the neighbourhood of London a great number of the poorer classes of the community, and particularly of those in whose minds the pressure of the times might be supposed to have excited disaffection and discontent, advertisements were inserted in newspapers, and handbills were industriously distributed, inviting the distressed manufacturers, mariners, artisans, and others, to assemble at that place on the 15th of November. A large body of people accordingly assembled at the time and place prescribed. The most inflammatory language was there held to the multitude, having a direct tendency

tendency to excite them to outrage and violence : and the meeting was in fact followed by some acts of plunder and riot. A petition to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent was agreed to at that meeting, and an adjournment to Palace-Yard on the first day after the meeting of parliament was proposed ; but the 2d of December was subsequently fixed upon (on the proposition of one of the persons concerned in the plans already described) for another meeting in Spa-Fields ; and that day appears to have been determined upon for the execution of their design.

Various schemes were formed for this purpose. Amongst them was a general and forcible liberation of all persons confined in the different prisons in the metropolis ; into some of which, in order to facilitate its execution, an address to the prisoners was introduced, assuring them that their liberty would be restored under a new government ; announcing the intended attack upon all the prisons for that day ; apprizing the prisoners that arms would be ready for them ; exhorting them to be prepared with the national tricolor cockade, and to co-operate by the most violent and sanguinary means to ensure success.

It was also proposed to set fire to various barracks, and steps were taken to ascertain and prepare the means of effecting this purpose. An attack upon the Tower and Bank, and other points of importance, was, after previous consultations, finally determined upon. Pikes and arms to a certain extent were actually provided, and leaders were named, among whom

the points of attack were distributed. It further appears that the interval between the two meetings was employed with unremitting assiduity by some of the most active agitators in taking regular circuits through different quarters of the town. In these they either resorted to the established clubs or societies, or laboured in conversations, apparently casual, at public houses, to work up the minds of those with whom they conversed into such a state of ferment and irritation as to render them, when collected in sufficient numbers, for whatever ostensible purpose, the fit and ready instruments for the execution of any project, however rash and desperate. In the course of these circuits one of their chief objects appears to have been to take every opportunity of attempting to seduce from their allegiance the soldiers of the different guards and at the barracks. The principal persons concerned in this plan actually proceeded to Spa-fields on the second of December, some of them with concealed arms, and with ammunition previously prepared ; they had also provided themselves with tricolor flags, and with a standard bearing the following inscription : “ The brave soldiers are our brothers ; treat them kindly ; ” and also with tricolor cockades, evidently adopted as the signal of revolution. After much inflammatory language a direct invitation was by one of these persons addressed to the multitude to proceed immediately to actual insurrection. And it appears quite certain, that the acts of plunder which were perpetrated for the purpose

purpose of procuring arms, and the other measures of open insurrection which followed, were not accidental or unpremeditated, but had been deliberately pre-concerted, as parts of a general plan of rebellion and revolution. There appears also strong reason to believe that the execution of those projects at that particular time was expected by some of the associations in distant parts of the country. The conspirators seem to have had the fullest confidence of success; and a persuasion has subsequently been expressed amongst them, that their plans could have been defeated only by casual and unexpected circumstances. Even after the failure of this attempt, the same plans appear not to have been abandoned.

Your committee are deeply concerned to be compelled, in further execution of their duty, to report their full conviction that designs of this nature have not been confined to the capital, but have been extended and are still extending widely in many other parts of Great Britain, particularly in some of the most populous and manufacturing districts.

At the meeting of the second of December in Spa-Fields, that part of the assembly which had not engaged in the acts of plunder and insurrection before mentioned, came to a resolution to adjourn the meeting to the second Monday after the meeting of Parliament, namely, the tenth of February; and it appears by the papers referred to the committee, that meetings in various parts of the country, conformably to a plan settled by the leading persons in London at an early period,

were intended to be held on the same day.

It appears manifest that the persons engaged in various parts, both of England and Scotland, in forwarding the plans of revolution, have constantly waited for the example of the metropolis. Intelligence of the event of the meeting there on the second of December was anxiously expected; and as the first report of the beginning of the disturbance excited in a high degree the spirits of the disaffected, so its speedy suppression produced the expression of strong feelings of disappointment. Had it even partially succeeded, there seems much reason to believe that it would have been the signal for a more general rising in other parts of the kingdom. Since that time it appears to be the prevailing impression amongst the leading malcontents in the country, that it is expedient for them to wait till the whole kingdom shall, according to their expression, be more completely organized, and more ripe for action.

What is meant by completely organizing the country is but too evident from the papers before the committee. It appears clearly that the object is, by means of societies or clubs, established, or to be established, in all parts of Great Britain, under pretence of parliamentary reform, to infect the minds of all classes of the community, and particularly of those whose situation most exposes them to such impressions, with a spirit of discontent and disaffection, of insubordination, and contempt of all law, religion, and morality, and to hold out to them
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the plunder and division of all property, as the main object of their efforts, and the restoration of their natural rights; and no endeavours are omitted to prepare them to take up arms on the first signal for accomplishing these designs.

It is on these grounds that your committee have been led to look with particular anxiety to the formation, principles, and conduct of those societies or clubs by which the ends of the disaffected have been hitherto so much forwarded, and are expected by them to be finally accomplished. Many of these societies pass under the denomination of Hampden Clubs. Under this title societies of very various descriptions appear to have been formed, all professing their object to be parliamentary reform. This name and their professions may have induced many persons to become members of such societies who may not be aware of the ultimate intentions of many of their leaders; and the committee would by no means ascribe to all these societies the same practices and designs which they have found to be but too prevalent amongst a large number of them; but they find that, particularly among the manufacturing and labouring classes, societies of this denomination have been most widely extended, and appear to have become some of the chief instruments of disseminating doctrines, and of preparing for the execution of plans, the most dangerous to the public security and peace.

Others of these societies are called Union Clubs, professing the same object of parliamentary re-

form, but under these words understanding universal suffrage and annual parliaments: projects which evidently involve not any qualified or partial change, but a total subversion of the British constitution.

It appears that there is a London Union Society, and branch Unions corresponding with it, and affiliated to it. Others of these societies have adopted the name of Spencean Philanthropists; and it was by members of a club of this description that the plans of the conspirators in London were discussed and prepared for execution.

The principles of these last associations seem to be spreading rapidly among the other societies which have been formed, and are daily forming, under that and other denominations in the country. Among the persons adopting these principles, it is common to disclaim parliamentary reform as unworthy of their attention. Their objects are avowed in a hand-bill dispersed by the society of that description in London, and in numerous other publications. These objects are, "A Parochial partnership in land, on the principle that the landholders are not proprietors in chief; that they are but the stewards of the public; that the land is the people's farm; that landed monopoly is contrary to the spirit of christianity, and destructive of the independence and morality of mankind."

The societies under these different names are so numerous, and so various, that it has been difficult to obtain a complete view of all of them, or to comprehend

hend them under any general description.

The country societies are principally to be found in and in the neighbourhood of Leicester, Loughborough, Nottingham, Mansfield, Derby, Chesterfield, Sheffield, Blackburne, Manchester, Birmingham, and Norwich, and in Glasgow and its vicinity; but they extend and are spreading, in some parts of the country, to almost every village. In addition to all the arts of seduction, resort is also had to a system of intimidation, and threats are held out to those who refuse to join. Their combinations are artfully contrived to secure secrecy in their proceedings, and to give to the leading members undisputed authority over the rest. Oaths of secrecy have been frequently administered, some of which are of the most atrocious and dreadful import.

They do not, however, trust to this security alone to prevent discovery; their proceedings are seldom reduced to writing; they pass and are communicated by word of mouth. The more numerous meetings delegate all authority to a managing committee; and by that committee, and by meetings of delegates from the committees of different societies, every thing of importance is transacted.

The committees themselves are also cautious of reducing any of their proceedings to writing, communicating with each other only by delegates and missionaries.

It appears that, in some parts of the country, arms have been lately procured by individual members of these societies in consi-

derable quantities, which can only have been done with a view to the use of force. Subscriptions are also generally required, which, although the amount paid by each individual may be very small, may produce, from the large numbers of the contributors, no inconsiderable fund.

The destructive objects which the leading members of these societies have in view are demonstrated by their publications and by their proceedings, all equally calculated to inflame the minds of the members, and in general of the poorer classes of the community. At the ordinary meetings of these societies, which are often continued to a late hour, their time is principally employed in listening to speeches tending to the destruction of social order, recommending a general equalization of property, and at the same time endeavouring to corrupt the morals of the hearers, and to destroy all reverence for religion. The landholder has been represented as a monster which must be hunted down, and the fundholder as a still greater evil; and both have been described as rapacious creatures, who take from the people fifteen-pence out of every quartern loaf. They have been told that parliamentary reform is no more than a half-measure, changing only one set of thieves for another: and that they must go to the land, as nothing short of that would avail them. Another principal employment of their time is, to listen to publications of the same description as the speeches, containing the same doctrines, and leading to the same purposes; and the meetings

ings are frequently terminated, particularly in London, by profane and seditious songs and parodies of parts of the liturgy, in which the responses are chanted by the whole company. By such means, and by the profession of open infidelity in which some of the members indulge in their speeches, the minds of those who attend their meetings are tainted and depraved; they are taught contempt for all decency, all law, all religion and morality, and are thus prepared for the most atrocious scenes of outrage and violence.

Amongst the most effectual means of furthering these dangerous designs, the committee think it their duty particularly to call the attention of the House to the unremitting activity which has been employed throughout the kingdom in circulating to an unprecedented extent, at the lowest prices or gratuitously, publications of the most seditious and inflammatory nature, marked with a peculiar character of irreligion and blasphemy, and tending not only to overturn the existing form of government and order of society, but to root out those principles upon which alone any government or any society can be supported.

The committee cannot but consider the late attack upon his royal highness the Prince Regent, on his way from opening the present session of parliament, as an additional and melancholy proof of the efficacy of this system to destroy all reverence for authority, and all sense of duty, and to expose to insult, indignity, and hazard the person of the immediate representative of the sovereign,

even in the exercise of one of the most important parts of his royal functions.

It appears to be an essential part of the system to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by public meetings, convoked either by the leaders of these societies, or by others, in the metropolis, and in populous places and districts, to address the multitude in terms of unprecedented license and violence, amounting even in some instances to an open declaration that, in case of non-compliance with their petitions, the sovereign will have forfeited his claims to their allegiance. These proceedings are subsequently printed and circulated, and thus become a fresh vehicle for sedition and treason.

By the frequency of these meetings, and by the new practice of continuing them (under various pretexts) by frequent adjournments, the minds of his majesty's well-disposed and peaceable subjects are held in a state of perpetual agitation and alarm. The appointment of such public meetings in a variety of different places on the same day appears to be considered as the most effectual means of accomplishing the designs of the disaffected, and must evidently in a high degree embarrass and impede the exertions of all civil powers applicable to the suppression of disturbances, distract the attention of government, and oblige them so to subdivide and harass the military force which it may be necessary to call in for the assistance of the civil power, as to render it inadequate to the maintenance of public tranquillity.

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Such a state of things cannot be suffered to continue without hazarding the most imminent and dreadful evils; and although the committee do not presume to anticipate the decision of parliament as to the particular measures to be adopted in the present emergency, they feel it to be their duty to express their decided opinion that further provisions are necessary for the preservation of the public peace, and for the protection of interests in which the happiness of every class of the community is deeply and equally involved.

House of Commons.

The Committee of Secrecy, to whom the several Papers, which were presented (sealed up) to the House, by Lord Viscount Castlereagh, on the 4th day of February, by command of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, were referred, and who were directed to examine the matters thereof, and report the same, as they should appear to them, to the House;—have unanimously agreed to the following Report:

It appears to your Committee, from the most attentive consideration of the several documents referred to them, that attempts have been made, in various parts of the country, as well as in the metropolis, to take advantage of the distress in which the labouring and manufacturing classes of the community are at present involved, to induce them to look for immediate relief, not only in a reform of parliament on the plan of universal suffrage and annual election, but in a total overthrow of all

existing establishments, and in a division of the landed, and extinction of the funded property of the country.

This hope and prospect of spoliation have been actively and industriously propagated by several societies, openly existing in the metropolis, distinguished by the name of Spenceans; a title which they have assumed in consequence of having revived the principles, with some variation, of a visionary writer of the name of Spence, which first appeared in a publication of his near twenty years ago.

It appears that at some of these societies, held during the last month, the question was discussed, whether the meetings for parliamentary reform are calculated to mislead or enlighten the public. In the course of the debates upon which question, it was strongly urged “that parliamentary reform was only a half measure, that they must look to the land, for nothing short of that would ever avail them: that we had no constitution, there being no book in which it could be found, nor any man that could tell what it was.” In another discussion upon the question, “whether the practical establishment of Spence’s plan be an effectual remedy for the present distresses,” one of the doctrines maintained was, that “the landholder was a monster to be hunted down; but that they should not suffer themselves to be amused; that there was a greater evil, namely, the fundholder; that these were the rapacious wretches, that took fifteen-pence out of every quartern loaf.”

It further appears, that in these meetings the most blasphemous expressions

expressions and doctrines are openly and repeatedly advanced: that as the meetings are professed to be of a convivial nature, the political debates and readings are usually followed by songs, in many of which the most inflammatory topics are introduced, some of a seditious and treasonable nature, and others under the form of profane and indecent parodies of the liturgy and of the holy scriptures.

These societies appear to have extended themselves; and there are traces of the existence of a committee called conservative, directing the operations of the whole. The doctrines above-mentioned have been systematically and industriously disseminated amongst mechanics and manufacturers, discharged soldiers and sailors, and labourers of all descriptions; they have been inculcated at frequent appointed meetings, and at various places, by speakers, who have made the distresses of the times topics of excitement and inflammation; and they have been circulated, with incredible activity and perseverance, in cheap and often gratuitous publications. It has been proved, to the entire satisfaction of your committee, that some members of these societies, acting by delegated or assumed authority, as an executive committee of the whole, conceived the project, and endeavoured to prepare the means of raising an insurrection, so formidable from numbers, as by dint of physical strength to overpower all resistance.

The first step towards the accomplishment of this object was,

by the individual exertion of the members of the committee, to discover and foment the prevalent distresses and discontents in the metropolis and its vicinity. Returns were made of those who they thought were to be relied upon for daring and hazardous enterprises.

The design was by a sudden rising in the dead of the night, to surprise and overpower the soldiers in their different barracks, which were to be set on fire; at the same time (plans having been arranged, and some steps taken with a view to the accomplishment of that object) to possess themselves of the artillery, to seize or destroy the bridges, and to take possession of the Tower and the Bank. In furtherance of this design, a machine was projected for clearing the streets of cavalry. A drawing of this machine, fully authenticated, and also a manuscript sketch or plan of various important parts of the Tower, found with the drawing of the machine, have been laid before your committee.

This design was however relinquished a short time before its intended execution. It was thought more prudent previously to ascertain what force the conspirators could actually call together, and this it was agreed could best be done by convening a public meeting for the ostensible purpose of obtaining a redress of grievances in a legal way. The map of London was inspected, and Spa-Fields were selected as the most eligible spot, from their vicinity to the Bank and the Tower. Advertisements were accordingly prepared, and written placards circulated, of
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the most dangerous and inflammatory nature ; of one of which the following is a copy :

“ Britons to Arms !

“ The whole country waits the signal from London to fly to arms ! haste, break open gunsmiths and other likely places to find arms ! run all constables who touch a man of us ; no rise of bread ; no Regent ; no Castlereagh, off with their heads ; no placemen, tythes, or enclosures ; no taxes ; no bishops, only useless lumber ! stand true, or be slaves for ever.”

“ N. B.—Five thousand of these bills are up in the town, and printed ones, with further particulars, will appear in due time.”

At this time, if not before, the intended insurrection assumed the symbols of the French revolution ; a committee of public safety, consisting of 24, was agreed upon, including the names of several persons, extremely unlikely to lend themselves to such a cause. A tricolor flag and cockades were actually prepared ; the flag was openly carried and displayed at the first meeting which took place in Spa-Fields, on the 15th of November. No acts of violence were however encouraged on that day, though some few instances of plunder occurred after the assembly dispersed, but care was taken to adjourn the meeting to the 2d of December, by which time it was hoped that the preparations for insurrection would be fully matured. Not a moment was lost in advertising the next meeting, and great assiduity was employed in circulating the intelligence through all the great manufacturing towns in the country, by means

of placards and hand-bills : endeavours were used to raise subscriptions ; the expense hitherto incurred in forwarding the object of the conspiracy, and in supporting such inferior members of it as had relinquished their trades and occupations in order to devote their whole time to the furtherance of the cause, having been hitherto principally defrayed by one individual of the committee. Plans for the seduction of the soldiers were now adopted and pursued with unremitting activity ; appeals were made to excite their sympathy, and induce them not to act against the insurgents ; attempts were made to inflame their hopes by promises of rank and reward, and to alarm their jealousy by the absurd fiction of the actual landing of a considerable foreign army, for the purpose of controlling them.

The barracks were again reconnoitred with a view to attack. The manufacture of tricolor-ribbon was encouraged, with a view of rendering it familiar to the eyes of the public.

Visits were repeated to those quarters of the town, where the distress was considered as the most prevalent ; and warehouses along the river, as well as shops in other places, which were known to contain arms, combustibles, and clothing, were examined and noted down, with the view of seizing those articles on the proper occasion. Plans were also formed for seducing the sailors on the river, by offers of advancement to high rank under the new government, and for seizing and equipping such ships as were accessible.

cessible. Immediately previous to the day appointed for meeting, arms were provided for the use of some of the persons most actively engaged. This provision was deemed sufficient for the beginning of the insurrection, as they felt confident that if it should be successful for two hours, as many arms might be procured as would be necessary, from the depots and gunsmiths shops, which had been reconnoitred with that view.

Your Committee have further received undoubted information that a large quantity of pike heads had been ordered of one individual, and 250 actually made by him, and delivered and paid for. It was also undoubtedly intended to liberate the prisoners in the principal gaols in or about the metropolis, in the hope of their concurrence and assistance in the intended insurrection. Addresses were introduced into some of those prisons, and recommended to be communicated to others, in which the persons confined were invited, in the name of the tricolored committee, to rally round the tricolored standard, which would be erected on Monday, December the 2d, and to wear tricolored cockades themselves. It was promised that the prisoners should be liberated by force, and arms were stated to be provided for them, and they were directed to be ready to assist in overpowering the turnkeys. A waggon was hired for the business of the day, in which the flags and banner or standard, which had been previously prepared, together with some ammunition, were secretly conveyed to the place of meeting. From this waggon, before the

ostensible business of the day commenced in the other part of the field, the most inflammatory speeches were delivered, tending directly to excite insurrection, and concluded by an appeal to the multitude assembled, whether they were prepared to redress their own grievances. A tricolor cockade was then exhibited, and the tricolor flag was displayed, and a number of persons followed it out of the field.

The direction which they took was towards that part of the town previously designed; gunsmiths shops were broken open, addresses and offers were made to the soldiers at the Tower to induce them to open the gates; but from the failure of the numbers expected to join the insurgents, no attempt was made to force the gates. An attack was however made upon the city magistrates assembled in the Royal Exchange, a shot fired, and a tricolor flag and cockade openly displayed and seized on the offender.

In reviewing the whole of the transactions of the 2d of December, your committee are firmly persuaded, that, however improbable the success of such a plan may appear, it yet was deliberately premeditated by desperate men, who calculated without reasonable ground upon defection in their opposers, and upon active support from those multitudes, whose distress they had witnessed, and whom they had vainly instigated to revolt. That consequently it was not merely the sudden ebullition of the moment, or the unauthorized attempt of any unconnected individual.

Your Committee are further convinced,

convinced, that notwithstanding the failure on the 2d of December, the same designs still continue to be prosecuted with sanguine hopes of success.

Your Committee having thus stated the general result of the evidence which has been laid before them, respecting the state of the metropolis, have now the no less painful duty of calling the attention of the House to what has been passing during the same period in different parts of the country, a subject of equally momentous consideration. The first thing which has here forced itself upon their observation, is the widely diffused ramification of a system of clubs, associated professedly for the purpose of parliamentary reform, upon the most extended principle of universal suffrage and annual parliaments. These clubs in general designate themselves by the same name of Hampden clubs. On the professed object of their institution, they appear to be in communication and connexion with the club of that name in London.

It appears to be part of the system of these clubs, to promote an extension of clubs of the same name and nature, so widely as, if possible, to include every village in the kingdom. The leading members are active in the circulation of publications likely to promote their object. Petitions, ready prepared, have been sent down from the metropolis to all societies in the country disposed to receive them. The communication between these clubs takes place by the mission of delegates; delegates from these clubs in the country, have assembled in Lon-

don, and are expected to assemble again early in March. Whatever may be the real object of these clubs in general, your Committee have no hesitation in stating, from information on which they place full reliance, that in far the greater number of them, and particularly in those which are established in the great manufacturing districts of Lancashire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire, and which are composed of the lower order of artizans, nothing short of a revolution is the object expected and avowed.

Your Committee find, from equally undoubted information, that the doctrines of the Spencean clubs have been widely diffused through the country, either by the extension of similar societies, or more frequently by the intervention of missionaries or delegates, whose business it is to propagate those doctrines throughout every society to which they have access: it is the universal practice of these societies, to require from the members a small weekly subscription, which provides a fund for the expenses of these missionaries, and also for the purchase of seditious tracts, which are read and commented on at their meetings. Some of these tracts, now before your committee, inculcate in the most artful manner, the necessity of overturning what they call "the privileged class," as distinguished from the people, who are described as consisting of labourers, artizans, tradesmen, and every profession useful to society. A new order is declared to be the will of the people; rebellion is justified by the assertion that a nation cannot be a rebel; and all religion

religion is disavowed, as well as loyalty, by the assertion, in answer to the question, “ would you live without gods or kings,”—“ we abjure tyranny of every kind.”

It seems, indeed, to be a part of the system adopted by these societies, to prepare the minds of the people for the destruction of the present frame of society, by undermining not only their habits of decent and regular subordination, but all the principles of morality and religion. Your Committee find, that there is scarcely any very numerous society, in the parts above referred to, of whose proceedings they have obtained an account, in which some of the leading speakers do not openly avow the most seditious opinions, and do not excite their hearers to be prepared for actual insurrection. Topics for discussion are selected with this view : amongst others, the question, whether the jacobin or the loyalist was the best friend to his country ? Even where petitioning is recommended, it is proposed to be conducted in such a manner, by an immense number of delegates attending in London at the same time, in several parties, attached to each petition, as might induce an effort to obtain by force whatever they demanded. A general idea seems prevalent among those who compose these societies, that some fixed day, at no very great distance, is to be appointed for a general rising. They have been taught to look to the meetings in London as the signal for their operations, and have been in the habit of adjourning their own assemblies simultaneously to the same day ; and it is a lamentable instance of the com-

mon interest which they feel, if not of the connexion which is formed with the most implicated in the outrages committed in the metropolis, that about Manchester and some other places, the greatest exultation was manifested previous to the meeting in Spa-Fields on the 2nd of December ; and the taking of the Tower, and the ruin of the Bank, were publicly and confidently predicted. The news of the result was impatiently expected, the roads were crowded during the night with a number of persons, many of them delegates from the different societies in the country, waiting for the arrival of the mail coach, and the disappointment was not concealed, when it was ascertained that the riot had been quelled without much serious or extensive mischief.

It appears, that the confidence of the disaffected is such, that they represent the numbers enrolled as amounting to several hundred thousand, and that their societies are daily increasing ; that in their lists they distinguish by particular marks those among their subscribers who are able bodied men, and ready to act when required ; and that they also keep a list of those who refuse to join them in what they call a “ black book,” and threaten vengeance against these persons when the general insurrection shall take place. In some parts of one populous country, where nearly every village has already its Hampden club, the members make it no secret that they consider themselves as of no other use than as being ready to act whenever they are called upon ; on their admission they are said

to be listed, and receive a secret card with the words "Be Ready, Be Steady."

The habits and manners of these persons seem entirely changed: they already calculate upon the share of land which each is to possess, and point out the destruction of the churches, as the necessary consequence of their success. It appears that preparations are in progress, in several places, for providing arms; the demand upon gunsmiths, for every species of fire-arms, has been beyond all former example; the intention is professed, of having recourse for a still larger supply to those towns where arms are manufactured, and where they are to be obtained at a very low rate, from the general cheapness of labour at this time; or in case of necessity they are to be seized by force. The facility of converting implements of husbandry into offensive weapons, has been suggested; and persons have been sent to observe the state of particular places, where depots of arms for the public service were supposed to have been formed.

Your committee find that a system of secret association has been extended to the manufacturing population of Glasgow, and some other populous towns of Scotland; and although these societies have availed themselves of the same pretext, of parliamentary reform on the broadest basis, your committee are firmly persuaded, from the information which has been laid before them, that their ultimate object is the overthrow by force of the existing form of government; that the time for attempting this enterprise was to

depend on the simultaneous rising of the disaffected in England, with some emissaries from whom occasional intercourse appears to have taken place; and that some provision of weapons has been made by this association.

Your committee have now submitted to the House, what they conceive to be a fair, and not exaggerated statement of the result of their investigation. They have thought themselves precluded from inserting, in an Appendix, the information from which it is drawn, by the consideration, that unless it were extremely partial and incomplete, they could not make it public without hazarding the personal safety of many useful and many respectable individuals, and in some instances without prejudicing the due administration of public justice.

On a review of the whole, it is a great satisfaction to your committee to observe, that, notwithstanding the alarming progress which has been made in the system of extending disaffection and secret societies, its success has been confined to the principal manufacturing districts, where the distress is more prevalent, and numbers more easily collected; and that even in many of these districts, privations have been borne with exemplary patience and resignation, and the attempts of the disaffected have been disappointed; that few if any of the higher orders or even of the middle class of society, and scarcely any of the agricultural population, have lent themselves to the more violent of these projects. Great allowance must be made for those who, under the pressure of urgent

gent distress, have been led to listen to plausible and confident demagogues, in the expectation of immediate relief. It is to be hoped, that many of those who have engaged, to a certain extent, in the projects of the disaffected, but in whom the principles of moral and religious duty have not been extinguished or perverted by the most profane and miserable sophistry, would withdraw themselves before those projects were pushed to actual insurrection.

But, with all these allowances, your committee cannot contemplate the activity and arts of the leaders in this conspiracy, and the numbers whom they have already

seduced, and may seduce; the oaths by which many of them are bound together; the means suggested and prepared for the forcible attainment of their objects; the nature of the objects themselves, which are not only the overthrow of all the political institutions of the kingdom, but also such a subversion of the rights and principles of property, as must necessarily lead to general confusion, plunder, and bloodshed; without submitting, to the most serious attention of the House, the dangers which exist, and which the utmost vigilance of government, under the existing laws, has been found inadequate to prevent.

CHAPTER II.

Singular Circumstance respecting the Committee of the Lords.—Bill for the Suspension of the Habeas Corpus, moved by Lord Sidmouth in the House of Lords.—Debates.—Protest.—Lord Castlereagh in the House of Commons moves for Bills, for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Assemblies; for the better prevention and punishment of attempts to seduce persons in his Majesty's forces by Sea and Land from their allegiance; and for making perpetual parts of an act, for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's person and government, including those of the Prince Regent.—Debates.—Different Clauses of the Seditious Meetings Act gone through.—The same bill in the House of Lords.—Protest.

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE IN
THE LORDS.

A REMARKABLE circumstance occurred, respecting the report of the Secret Committee drawn up by the House of Lords. Mr. Cleary, secretary to the London Union Society, having seen in a report laid before their Lordships, a clause relative to the above society, which appeared to connect it with the societies of Spencean Philanthropists, was induced to present a petition to the House, in which he gave a corrected statement of the society and its proceedings. This petition was put into the hands of Earl Grosvenor, who, on February 21st, read it to the House, as follows :

“ To the Right Hon. the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

“ The Petition of Thomas Cleary, Secretary to the London Union Society,

“ Humbly sheweth, That it is with great reluctance, as well as

humility, that your petitioner offers himself to the notice of, and prays for a hearing from your right honourable House; but that your petitioner, though a very humble individual, feels himself impelled by a sense of imperious duty, to beseech your right honourable House to pause, and to hear further evidence, before your right honourable House proceed to adopt legislative measures upon the report, now on the table of your right honourable House, from your late secret committee.

“ Your petitioner begs permission humbly to state to your right honourable House, that he has read in the aforementioned report of the secret committee of your lordships, the following passage, to wit :

“ ‘ Others of these societies are called Union Clubs, professing the same object of parliamentary reform, but under these words understanding universal suffrage and annual parliaments—projects which evidently involve not any qualified or partial change, but a total subversion of the British constitution.

It

It appears that there is a London Union Society, and branch Unions corresponding with it, and affiliated to it. Others of these societies have adopted the name of Spencean Philanthropists; and it was by members of a club of this description that the plans of the conspirators in London were discussed and prepared for execution.”

“Your petitioner presumes not to oppose his opinions against those of a committee of your right honourable House; but he hopes, that he may be humbly permitted to state, that when a bill was brought before your right honourable House by the late duke of Richmond, laying it down as a matter of principle, that annual parliaments and universal suffrage were the inherent and unalienable rights of Englishmen, the noble duke was not accused of a desire to produce “a total subversion of the British constitution.”

“It is not, however, on matters of opinion, but on matters of most important fact, that your petitioner humbly appeals to the candour, the wisdom, and the justice of your right honourable House, and on matters of fact, too, with regard to which your petitioner is able to submit to your right honourable House the clearest and most indubitable testimony.

“Your petitioner’s entire ignorance of the views of the secret committee of your right honourable House, as well as his profound respect and extreme deference for every thing done within the walls of your right honourable House, are more than sufficient to restrain your petitioner from attempting even to guess at the reasons for your committee’s having

so closely connected the ‘London Union Society’ with the societies of ‘Spencean Philanthropists;’ but your petitioner humbly begs leave to assure your lordships, that he is ready and able to prove at the bar of your lordships, that there never has existed, between these societies, the smallest connexion of any sort, either in person or design, the object of the former being to obtain “a parliamentary reform, according to the constitution,” while that of the latter, as appears from the report of your lordships committee, has been to obtain a common partnership in the land; and that, therefore, any evidence which may have been laid before the secret committee of your lordships to establish this connexion, is, as your petitioner is ready to prove at the bar of your lordships, wholly destitute of truth.

“But the facts to which your petitioner is most anxious humbly to endeavour to obtain the patient attention of your right honourable House, relate to that affiliation and correspondence, which your lordships secret committee have been pleased to impute to the London Union Society, by observing that “it appears that there is a London Union Society, and Branch Unions, corresponding with it, and affiliated to it;” a description which seems, in the humble conception of your petitioner, to resemble that which was given of the London Corresponding Society, in 1795, and which, as your petitioner humbly conceives, point to measures of a nature similar to those which were then adopted; and your petitioner, though with all humility, ventures to express his confidence, that the evidence

evidence which he doubts not has been produced to your lordships secret committee to justify this description, is wholly and entirely false, as your petitioner is ready to prove, in the most satisfactory manner, at the bar of your right honourable House.

“ Upon this important point your petitioner humbly begs leave to represent to your right honourable House, that the London Union Society was founded in 1812 by Mr. Edward Bolton Clive, Mr. Walter Fawkes, the late colonel Bosville, Mr. Montague Burgoyne, the present lord mayor, Mr. Alderman Goodbehere, Mr. Francis Canning, Mr. William Hallet, sir Francis Burdett, major Cartwright, Mr. Robert Slade, Mr. Timothy Brown, Mr. J. J. Clarke, and several other individuals equally respectable; that it continued to hold meetings but a very short time; that it never did any act except the publishing of one address to the nation on the subject of reform; that it never had any one “ Branch;” that it never held any correspondence either written or verbal with any society of any sort; that it never was affiliated to any society, or branch, or any body of men whatsoever; finally, that it has not met for nearly three years and a half last past; and, of course, that it is not now in existence.

“ What, then, must have been the surprise and the pain of your humble petitioner, when he saw, in the report of your lordships secret committee, this London Union Society represented, not only as being still in existence, but busily and extensively at work, establishing branches and affiliations, carrying on an active

correspondence, infusing life into societies of Spencean Philanthropists, and producing, by these means, plans of conspiracy, revolution, and treason! and though your petitioner is too well assured of the upright views and of the justice of every committee consisting of members of your noble and right honourable House not to be convinced that very strong evidence in support of these charges must have been produced to your lordships secret committee, your petitioner cannot, nevertheless, refrain from expressing most humbly his deep regret, that your lordships committee should not have deigned to send for the books and other testimonials of the character and proceedings of the London Union Society; and your petitioner humbly begs leave to observe, that this omission appears singularly unfortunate for the London Union Society, seeing that the secret committee of your lordships appear, in another part of their report, to lament the want of means of obtaining the written proceedings of societies, and seeing that it was natural to expect, that a society having branches, an affiliation, and an active correspondence, had also a copious collection of written documents.

“ Your petitioner is aware, that he has trespassed too long on the patience of your lordships; but, well knowing that your lordships seek only for truth as the basis of your proceedings, he humbly hopes that you will be pleased to excuse the earnestness of his present representation, and he also presumes humbly to express his hope, that your lordships will be pleased, in your great tenderness for the character and liberties of his

his majesty's faithful subjects, to consider whether it be not possible that your secret committee may have been misled, by what they may have deemed good evidence, as to other parts of their recent report; and, at the least, your petitioner humbly prays that your lordships will, in your great condescension, be pleased to permit your petitioner to produce all the books and papers of the London Union Society at the bar of your right honourable House, where your petitioner confidently assures your lordships that he is ready to prove all and singular the allegations, contained in this his most humble petition.

“And your petitioner will ever pray. “THOMAS CLEARY.”

Some words applied by the Earl after he had read the petition, produced a warm attack upon him for the violation of order, in which other speakers defended him. At length, upon his motion, that it should lie upon the table, a debate ensued, when Earl Grey moved for an adjournment to the following Friday. This was disposed of by Contents, 18; Non-Contents, 64. The motion for laying the petition on the table, was then put and negatived.

On February 24th, Earl Grosvenor appeared again with Mr. Cleary's petition, respecting which he said, that the learned Lord on the Woolsack had declared, that the petition could not be received, because it alluded to the report of the House, of which the petitioner could not be cognizant, neither had it as yet been brought before the House. It was now tendered in such a shape as, he trusted, would remove any objection, all

notice of the secret committee being omitted. No opposition was accordingly made to its reception; though not till several lords had taken the opportunity of discussing the conduct of the committee, by way of attack and defence.

BILL FOR SUSPENSION OF HABEAS CORPUS.

On February 24th, a bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act was moved in the House of Lords. It was introduced by *Lord Sidmouth*, who began his speech by an eulogy upon the manner in which the secret committee had laid its discoveries before the House. There were three principal features to which he would advert: 1. That no doubt was left in the minds of the committee, that a traitorous correspondence existed in the metropolis, for the purpose of overthrowing the established government: 2. That the committee are deeply concerned to report their full conviction, that designs of this nature have not been confined to the capital, but are extending widely through the most populous and manufacturing districts: 3. That such a state of things cannot be suffered to continue without hazarding the most imminent and dreadful evils. After descanting upon these points, his lordship proceeded to set in a strong light the actual danger into which the public welfare was brought; and he touched upon the riot in the capital on December 2d, and upon his own active services in suppressing it. He was thence led to take into consideration certain provisions of former legislatures, to guard against public evils; and he

he intimated the intention of the present ministers, to renew some measures of this kind. In fine, he came to the direct point of the suspension of the Habeas Corpus, of which he said he was sincerely grieved to be the instrument, especially in a time of profound peace. But it was one extraordinary quality of the British constitution, that the powers of the executive government could be enlarged, if by such means that constitution would be better secured. He required the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act, in pity to the peaceable and loyal inhabitants of the country, for the protection of the two Houses of Parliament, for the maintenance of our liberties, and for the security of the blessings of the constitution. It was not merely the lower orders which had united in these conspiracies; individuals of great activity, resolution, and energy, were engaged in the contest.

The Marquis Wellesley said, that when parliament was called upon to alter the existing laws of the land, ministers should be able to lay before it a plain distinct case, founded upon powerful and irresistible evidence, in order that it should be justified in doing that which in ordinary circumstances would be a direct infringement of the public freedom. Unless the ministers of the crown could unquestionably prove, that such a case cannot be restrained by the ordinary course of law, they are not warranted in demanding the extension of extraordinary powers. This subject led him to consider what he must regard as the grand and prominent part of the ques-

tion, namely, a comparison between the present day, with the period of 1795; of which there was the leading and undeniable distinction, that in the first case, all the mischiefs against which the enlargement of the powers of the crown went to provide, sprung mainly from the French revolution. From France the dangers were apprehended, and to the machinations of agents from that country, the energies of the government were directed. But to what were the principles of our modern system of policy directed, when our army in Spain was engaged in a succession of triumphs, and when the nations of the continent, in imitation of our example, were resolved to make a determined struggle for their independence? It was to this—that we had actually extinguished the spirit of Jacobinism, and that the war had assumed a different complexion. The peace followed, and it was one which the noble marquis severely reprobated. To the want of stipulations in favour of England, he attributed the revival of Jacobinism; but how did it happen, said he, that ministers, when they had ascertained the existence of a presumed traitorous conspiracy in the metropolis, and were aware, as they now profess, that the provisions of the law were incompetent to control it, did not at once resort to measures to put it down?

After various other observations, which it is unnecessary here to repeat, the Marquis concluded with affirming, that he must conscientiously declare, that up to the moment he was then speaking, he had not seen such evidence as convinced

convinced him that the danger was so alarming as had been represented. Great discontents undoubtedly existed ; seditious practices evidently prevailed ; yet he was not satisfied, that they existed in that shape and character which justified the suspension of the Habeas Corpus.

The Earl of Liverpool, in his reply to the Marquis, began with absolutely denying, that the discontent and distress under which we laboured, were attributable to the late peace ; and he believed it never entered into the heads of any one to imagine that such was the consequence. So far from the fact being such as the Marquis stated, our trade and manufactures were never so extensive as during the years 1814 and 1815. The origin of our distress was to be traced to a totally different cause from that of foreign trade ; in fact it might be originally traced to the distress of our agricultural interest. The next topic of the Marquis's complaint was the meeting of parliament, and it was asked, why it was not earlier assembled, when ministers must have known the dangers of the country : it did not however follow, that because there were clubs, meetings, and publications of a dangerous nature, that therefore there were distinct proofs of a conspiracy upon which government might proceed capitally. In fact, it was not till within three weeks of the actual meeting of parliament, that ministers were in possession of that knowledge.

The Earl then proceeded to touch upon the question more immediately before their lordships ; and he said, that the real point to

be considered was, whether a sufficient cause now existed for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus ? On the present occasion government had the fullest proof (if they were to believe the report) of a treasonable conspiracy in the metropolis to overturn the constitution, and that the same system was spread over a great part of the country. Was it then too much to contend, that under such circumstances it was proper to recur to the course which our ancestors had pursued in similar dangers ? He felt all the importance of the measure that was now proposed ; but he would not allow any imputations that might be insinuated to preclude him from the conscientious discharge of his duty. What he asked of parliament was to entrust the Prince Regent's ministers with that power for a short time—a most odious one, he agreed—and which ought not to be confided to any man, or any set of men, except in such cases as now, he apprehended, justified him in calling for it.

Earl Grey, after various preliminary remarks against the proposed motion, argued in the first place, that any conspiracy attended with an utter improbability of success, as the present was allowed to be, was not a case that called for a suspension of the Habeas Corpus. Who were the chief actors in this conspiracy ? Were they persons of great consequence and connexions in the country ? No. They were miserable wretches reduced to the lowest poverty and distress. What was their object ? To produce insurrection by calling persons together on the pretext of parliamentary

tary reform, without any previous concert and design, and trusting wholly to chance for stimulating their instruments in the work of sedition. This was the whole extent of the plot, and the attempt was made in the way that was projected. Those formidable rioters fled at the very mention of a dragoon. They did not wait to see their horses' heads at the top of a street, so admirable were the military arrangements of that able commander, general lord viscount Sidmouth.

The Earl then took a review of the different societies designated in the report, and observed that there were acts of parliament, chiefly of modern date, under which all these offences might be prosecuted and punished. He would, however, have consented to a new law for preventing meetings in the open air without a previous notice to a magistrate; and would also cheerfully have agreed to a bill for the better security of the person of the Prince Regent. These two measures would, he conceived, together with the existing laws, have been amply sufficient to have met all the evils dwelt upon in the report.

Lord Grenville considered the question before their lordships to be one of the most important that had ever engaged the attention of parliament. He felt it his bounden duty to declare, that the present situation of the country appeared to him one of extreme danger, and that some extraordinary legislative measures were absolutely necessary. Such being the serious conviction of his mind, he was compelled to give his cordial, though reluctant support for the

temporary suspension of the Habeas Corpus act.

After these and some other lords had given their sentiments on the bill, the House divided for its second reading, which was carried by Content 84, Proxies 66, Total 150; against, Not Content 23, Proxies 12, Total 35. Majority 115.

A protest was then entered upon the Journals to the following effect: "Dissentient. Because it does not appear to us that, in the report of the Secret Committee, there has been stated such a case of imminent and pressing danger as may not be sufficiently provided against by the powers of the executive government under the existing laws, and as requires the suspension of the most important security of the liberty of the country." It was signed by eighteen peers.

BILL FOR PREVENTING SEDITIOUS MEETINGS.

On the same day, February 24th, *Lord Castlereagh* rose in the House of Commons. He began with assuring that assembly, that in the whole course of his life, he had never performed a more painful duty than that which he was then called upon to discharge. He should have hoped, that after the dreadful record which the French revolution had afforded of the destruction brought upon its country, no individual could be found in Great Britain so dead to a sense of private feeling, or public duty, as to engage in schemes which would render the immediate and powerful aid of parliament necessary for securing the public peace. Looking to the
history

history of the revolutionary spirit in this country, it appeared to have gradually descended from the higher and better informed ranks in which it formerly betrayed itself, to those lower orders in which it was now principally to be found.

After some severe animadversion upon those superior classes of reformists, who appeared to his lordship to have excited the lower ranks to mischief, he went on to give the House “a fair and not exaggerated description of the dangers which now menaced the country, and to direct its attention to the remedies to be proposed by the ministers.” He observed, that although the conspirators had not been joined to the extent that they expected, yet that the general means they had provided, were sufficient to enable them to make the attempt with a rational prospect of success. It would be confining the extent of the peril within too narrow limits to consider it as sprung from the meeting of December 2d alone. Others were at that very moment going on under the pretence of seeking parliamentary reform. He would not deny that many individuals throughout the country had such a reform actually in view; but most of them looked at it merely as a half measure, or a veil to the prosecuting of their designs. It had been clearly made out, that a wicked conspiracy existed in the country for the subversion of the constitution and state; and it appeared that the individuals who were deeply implicated in the crime of treason had been the most active to procure meetings for the apparent

purpose of parliamentary reform. Such being the dangers against which parliament had to contend, they were now to be informed of the measures which the King’s ministers had thought proper to propose to them for meeting that danger. These, after having been commented on by his lordship *seriatim*, were summed up in a general statement.

The measures, he said, which he should propose as the wisest which parliament could adopt, were, 1. The temporary suspension of the Habeas Corpus. 2. The extending the act of 1795, for the security of his Majesty’s person, to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, as the person exercising the functions of royalty. 3. To embody into one act the provisions of the act of 1795, relative to tumultuous meetings and debating societies, and the provisions of the act of the 39th of the King, which declared the illegality of all societies bound together by secret oaths, or if not by secret oaths, which extended themselves by fraternized branches over the kingdom; and to make it enact, that the nominating delegates or commissioners, under any pretext, to any other societies of the kind, should be considered as sufficient proof of the illegality of such societies or associations. 4. To make such enactments as should be thought most effectual to punish with the utmost rigour, any attempt to gain over soldiers or sailors to act with any association or set of men, and withdraw them from their allegiance.

Lord Castlereagh concluded with moving, “That leave be given to bring in a bill for the more effectually

tually preventing Seditious Meetings and Assemblies."

A considerable number of speakers rose to give their opinions on the subject; but this being little more than a prelude to a closer engagement, we shall only mention at present, that on a division of the House, the leave requested was granted by 190 votes against 14.

Lord Castlereagh then obtained leave to bring in a bill to revive and make perpetual an act for the better prevention and punishment of attempts to seduce persons serving in his Majesty's forces by sea or land from their allegiance; and also a bill to make perpetual certain parts of an act for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's person and government, including that of the Prince Regent. These three bills were then brought in and read a first time.

Petitions were in the meantime preparing in the capital, and elsewhere, against the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act. They were presented to the House of Commons on February 26th, the day when *Lord Castlereagh* moved the order for the first reading of the bill for suspending the Habeas Corpus.

Mr. Bennet said he would oppose in every stage this arbitrary, impolitic, and uncalled-for measure. After some severe remarks upon the noble lord's public conduct, he entered into a brief examination of some parts of the committee's report, and the alarm it was calculated to spread. The first thing that he would remark upon was that part which stated, that the most blasphemous ex-

pressions and doctrines were openly advanced in the denounced meetings. Blasphemy, he said, was what he abhorred as much as any man; but he thought our present laws were sufficient for the purpose of restraining it. The next thing to which he would advert was that part of the report which stated, that the disaffected looked out for those people among whom the greatest distress prevailed, in order to excite discontent. If they looked for distress, he was sorry to say they might too easily find it; but from what himself had seen, and many hon. members had described, there was no other food for discontent necessary, nor any occasion for haranguing the disaffected to heighten complaints, or to point out the means of relief.

After various other observations, partly serious and partly ludicrous, the hon. member was unwarily led to speak of ministers who had "already embrued their hands in the blood of their country, and who had been guilty of the most criminal cruelties." This charge called up *Lord Castlereagh*, who desired *Mr. B.* to state which individual member of the present government he meant to accuse. The result was, that after an awkward apology, he declared that he did not mean to pursue the subject.

The *Lord Advocate of Scotland* thought it his duty to communicate to the House a circumstance which had lately come within his knowledge. A secret conspiracy had been organized in Glasgow, which had communications with societies in the country. The conspiracy was held together by means

means of a secret oath which he would read to the House. It ran as follows. "In the awful presence of God, I, A. B. do voluntarily swear, that I will persevere in my endeavours to form a brotherhood of affection amongst Britons of every description who are considered worthy of confidence; and that I will persevere in my endeavours to obtain for all the people of Great Britain and Ireland, not disqualified by crimes or insanity, the elective franchise at the age of twenty-one, with free and equal representation and annual Parliaments; and that I will support the same to the utmost of my power, either by moral or physical strength as the case may require: and I do further swear, that neither hopes, fears, rewards, or punishments shall induce me to inform, or give evidence, against any member or members, collectively or individually, for any act or expression done or made, in or out of this or similar societies, under the punishment of death, to be inflicted on me by any member or members of such society. So help me God, and keep me steadfast."

This oath (said the learned member) was administered to many hundred individuals in the city of Glasgow and its neighbourhood. Some persons to whom it was about to be given felt scrupulous about that part which related to the using of *physical strength*. A meeting was immediately called, and a motion was made to leave out those words, but it was rejected unanimously. The result, however, had been that a variety of persons were now apprehended; and he pledged

his character as a public officer, that when these individuals were taken, it was known to government that there were others moving in a very different sphere of life connected with the conspiracy, some of whom, he trusted, would yet be apprehended.

Sir Samuel Romilly spoke with considerable severity of the negligence of the ministers, who had suffered all these libellous and blasphemous publications to be industriously circulated among the lower orders without instituting a single prosecution against the authors. Speaking of the information communicated by the lord advocate of Scotland, he said, were ministers aware that the most severe punishment known to the law might be inflicted upon individuals subscribing that oath? Did they not know that it was felony without benefit of clergy unless the person taking the oath within fourteen days afterwards, abandoned his associates, and betrayed their purposes. He concluded a vigorous speech by saying, that in every point of view he thought the suspension objectionable: the dangers might be great, but the existing laws had not yet been tried; and if tried, he was convinced that they would be found sufficient for every purpose of national protection.

It is unnecessary to carry further the debates on this subject, since they were little more than repetitions of the arguments on both sides of the question, which have already been detailed in the sketch given from the House of Lords. After repeated calls for the question, the House divided, when there appeared for the first reading

ing of the bill, Yeas 273, Noes 98: Majority 175.

The order of the day for the third reading of the bill took place on the 28th of February. In the speeches on the occasion, *Mr. Lamb*, as a member of the secret committee, among other arguments said, that the ordinary course of the law might be sufficient, if the law were suffered to take its course; but he believed it to be stopped and arrested by the system of threats and menaces which intimidated jurors and witnesses.

Sir Arthur Pigott expressed himself much surprised that the hon. gentleman should defend the suspension of the Habeas Corpus on the ground that the country was at present in such a state that the existing laws could not be carried into execution. Were this the real state of things, a point of so much importance ought to be established on evidence very different from that which was laid before the committee of secrecy. How had the hon. gentleman been satisfied, that the situation of the country was such as he had described it to be? Had it appeared to the committee that such was the fact, they would not have closed their report without directly mentioning it.

The whole of the question being at length disposed of, the House divided on the third reading, which was carried by 265 to 103: majority 162.

Sir Francis Burdett then proposed a clause, that no person detained under this act shall be shut up in a dungeon, or other unwholesome place, or deprived of air and exercise, or loaded with

irons, &c. which was negatived without a division.

Mr. William Smith next moved a clause, securing the right of action against the persons who should issue warrants of commitment under the act, if the persons committed should be dismissed without trial, provided the action were brought within a month after the expiration of the act; which was also negatived without a division.

Mr. Ponsonby then proposed a clause, fixing the 20th of May for the expiration of the bill, instead of the 1st of July, on which the House divided: for the clause 97, against it 239.

Sir Sam. Romilly brought in an amendment to the bill, the purpose of which was to limit its operation in Scotland, as well as in England, to persons committed to prison for treason, or suspicion of treason, upon a warrant signed by six privy counsellors, or one of the principal secretaries of state; whereas, as the bill now stood, it extended in Scotland to persons committed by any subordinate magistrate.

The House of Lords was moved by *Lord Sidmouth* on March 3d, to take into its consideration the amendments which the House of Commons had introduced into the Habeas Corpus bill. The *Earl of Darnley*, as a final effort for setting the bill aside, made a motion for referring it to that day three months, which was negatived without a division. Some further discussion occurred respecting the rapidity with which it had passed the House of Lords, after which the amendments in the Commons were agreed to.

On

On March 3d, the second reading of the bill, to prevent seditious meetings, was moved in the House of Commons by the *Solicitor General*. Before he made his motion, he said he would briefly explain the reasons of its passing, and the different enactments which it contained. Of the various means employed by the fomentors of discontent, one of the most efficacious was to call together a number of persons, to inflame them by harangues, and to persuade them that the evils of the times would be remedied by their application to parliament, which they had a right to force to comply with their demands. Those meetings the bill was intended to control by some regulations precisely of the same kind as those adopted at other critical periods. In the committee, however, it was his intention to propose a clause, which he would now mention, as it partly involved new matter, though by no means contrary to the avowed spirit and purpose of the bill. The object of the clause was to prevent such meetings, convened by seven householders, from being adjourned to any other time or place than what should be at first specified; for if that evil were not guarded against, it might be contended that the original meeting having been declared legal, an adjourned meeting would become equally so. Another object of the bill would be to prevent the existence of debating societies, lecture rooms, reading rooms, &c. for admission to which money was received. A similar measure was enacted in 1796 and 1799; but neither of these touched the evil as it existed in the societies now formed. A further object would

be to suppress a particular society calling themselves the Spenceans, or Spencean philanthropists, which, whether it employed delegates or not, was condemned by the very doctrines which it promulgated.

After some severe remarks upon parts of the proposed bill, it was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

On March 10th, on the motion of the *Solicitor General*, this bill was recommitted. When the clause was read, inflicting the punishment of death on such persons as shall not disperse after being required so to do; *Mr. Gurney* rose and declared it as his decided conviction, that these clauses, being abhorrent to the common sense and feeling of mankind, so far from having any tendency to secure the public tranquillity, would tend to bring the legislature into that *hatred* with the people which the act alluded to.

Sir James Mackintosh, following up this idea, said that unless he received a satisfactory answer, he would move to substitute transportation to the punishment of death.

The *Solicitor General* saw no reason for the amendment suggested by the hon. gentleman. As the object of the bill was to prevent riot, it must be regarded as wise and proper to put the offence contemplated in the clause on the same footing as resistance to a proclamation under the riot act.

Mr. W. Smith said, that there was no comparison between the offence against which the riot act was directed, and that which is now before the committee. The first supposed that those against whom it

it was aimed were violating the public peace, and committing outrage. The second subjected those who did not disperse within an hour after proclamation, to the same punishment as if they had been guilty of the most aggravated crimes.

Sir James Mackintosh, after various observations had been made, moved as his amendment, that instead of the words "shall suffer death as in case of felony, without benefit of clergy," the words "shall suffer transportation for the term of seven years," should be substituted in their stead. The committee thereupon divided, when there appeared, for the amendment 26; against it 70.

Sir James Mackintosh then said that he had another amendment to propose in that important clause relative to public meetings. As it now stood, a power was given in the case of propositions, stirring up the people to hatred or contempt of the government or constitution of this realm as by law established. No man in this House would say that there was any intention of using the word *government* in any sense where it might be confounded with *administration*. But if that were true, what was the use of inserting the word "government?" The use of the word in this clause could have no tendency but to create the most dangerous misapprehensions. He would therefore propose the omission of the words "or the government," leaving the passage to run, "or the constitution of this realm as by law established."

After some conversation, this amendment was negatived.

On the reading of the next clause, for the apprehension of

persons offending as above described, *Sir Samuel Romilly* proposed to leave it out altogether; contending that as at present framed and understood, it might give some officious magistrates a pretence for denouncing the most peaceable and constitutional meetings, and would rather tend to occasion riot and confusion, than to prevent sedition and rebellion. The clause was defended by the ministers, who carried it by 46 against 16.

Sir James Mackintosh next proposed, that the exemptions extending to lectures in the universities, in the inns of court, and in Gresham college, should also include the East India college, and lectures in medicine, surgery, chemistry, and all others bona fide intended for the improvement of learning, the sciences, and the arts. This amendment was also rejected, with the exception of the East India college.

All the clauses being gone through, the House was resumed, and the bill was ordered to be reprinted.

On March 14th, the order of the day standing for the third reading of the bill for the more effectually preventing Seditious Meetings and Assemblies, *Sir M. W. Ridley*, after a speech in which he declared it to be his duty to oppose the passing into a law an act wholly uncalled for by the existing circumstances of the country, moved as an amendment, to leave out the word "now," and insert after the words "be read a third time," the words "this day six months."

This being the last day in which the two parties had an open field for contention, the principal force of

of each was mustered, though no doubt could be entertained how the decision would terminate. In fact, nothing was left but the mere repetition of exhausted arguments; and Mr. Canning found it necessary to revert to former displays of oratory, by saying, "It is in this view only that we recommend to the House of Commons to pass the present bill; not (as I have so often said, but as cannot be too often repeated) for the extinction of the sacred right of petition, but for its protection and preservation."

After the amendment had been disposed of, the third reading was carried by 179 to 44. A clause having been introduced into the bill by the Attorney General, enacting that it should not extend to Ireland, *Sir John Newport* opposed it, with a view of keeping down the Orange men; but the original question was carried.

On the introduction of the preamble of the bill, *Sir M. W. Ridley* moved the following amendment: "Whereas assemblies of divers persons collected for the purpose of exercising their undoubted right of offering petitions, complaints, remonstrances, declarations, or other addresses to his royal highness the Prince Regent, or to both houses, or to either house of parliament, have of late taken place; and whereas riots may be apprehended from large meetings of persons suffering under the pressure of distress at the present time." This amendment was negatived.

Mr. Ponsonby then moved, that instead of the words "one or more justice or justices," there

should be inserted in the bill "two or more justices," which was also negatived.

He next moved, that instead of the words "constitution and government," there should be inserted the word "constitution" only; which was also negatived. The bill was then passed.

On the 21st of March the House of Lords went into a committee on the bill relative to Seditious Meetings. On reading the clause from the Commons concerning what would constitute the assembly unlawful, *Lord St. John* observed, that as the words now stood, if the clerk of the peace should neglect to communicate the notice received of an intended meeting, signed by seven householders, to three magistrates, it might be deemed an unlawful assembly, although the persons calling it had complied in every respect with the enactments of the clause, and would, in consequence, become subject to the punishment of death. The *Lord Chancellor*, though he had no doubt that the omission of the clerk of the peace would not invalidate the legality of the meeting, said that he had no objection to an amendment which would render the clause more clear; and it was agreed that the words "in such case" should be omitted.

Lord Holland moved that the words "imposing the punishment of death" should be left out, as he considered it as glaringly disproportionate to the crime. This amendment was negatived.

At a meeting of the committee on March 24th, when the clause respecting licences to be granted to lecture rooms and debating societies

cieties was read, the *Earl of Lauderdale* observed, that the exceptions from the operation of this clause did not extend far enough, and that there could be no objection to include among the exceptions lectures merely on physical science. He then moved a clause to exempt from the operation of the licencing enactments, lectures on anatomy, astronomy, chemistry, or other branches of physical science. The *Earl of Liverpool* opposed the clause, on the ground that it was not to be supposed that magistrates, from any private motives, would prevent the delivery of such lectures. The clause was put and negatived.

An amendment proposed by *Earl Grosvenor* to limit the duration of the bill to the first of July 1817 was negatived.

Lord Sidmouth proposed a clause to prohibit public meetings within a mile of the two houses of parliament when sitting, or of the courts of justice when sitting at Westminster. After some discussion, this clause was agreed to; and all the amendments being gone through, the bill was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow.

On the 25th of March, the order of the day standing for the third reading of this bill, *Lord Erskine* rose, and began with the consideration, first, what evidence the House had of impending dangers which justified the passing of an act of the kind now before them; and secondly, whether admitting all the facts collected by the report, the bill was either a necessary or a proper remedy.

It is evident that this was the natural line of argument which

such a question required, and which was anticipated in the House of Commons. We shall therefore refer to the proceedings of the latter House for all that we have thought necessary to extract upon the general ground of discussion, from the field of debate.

It was mentioned on the preceding day that *Lord Sidmouth* had introduced a clause into the bill for the prevention of meetings within a mile of Westminster-hall. He had since considered that the place for holding elections for Westminster was within its precincts; and also that the borough of Southwark did not form any of the usual avenues to parliament. He therefore proposed to withdraw the clause, and add as an amendment, "saving and excepting in St. Paul's Covent-garden, and the borough of Southwark." This clause was adopted without a division.

The *Earl of Liverpool* then moved that the bill do pass; on which the House divided: Contents, 111; Non-contents, 23: Majority, 88.

The following protest of eight peers was entered on the Journals. "Dissentient. Because it appears to us that this statute, in inflicting the penalty of death, is unjustly severe; that it gives to magistrates a formidable and unnecessary power, improperly controlling the general expression of opinion, and interfering both with the public and private meetings of the people, in times of which we consider the danger to be much exaggerated, and which we think call for measures of conciliation and relief, and not for coercion."

CHAPTER III.

War Salaries of the Secretaries of the Admiralty.—Motion respecting the Lords of the Admiralty.—Motion for a Committee on the Public Income and Expenditure, by Lord Castlereagh.—First Report of the Committee.—Bills for abolishing the Offices of Justices in Eyre, and for a Compensation for Civil Services.—Pass both Houses.—Irish Peace preservation Bill.

SECRETARIES OF THE ADMIRALTY,

LORD Milton, in rising on February 17th, to call the attention of the House of Commons to the increase made in the salaries of the secretaries of the Admiralty, in consequence of the war with Algiers, began with observing the different light in which objects were regarded, according to the difference of the mind and disposition of the person by whom they were viewed. Having instanced the Prince Regent and Marquis Camden as those who could relinquish a part of their salaries, when the public service required it, he said, with what different eyes must the admiralty or their secretary have beheld the symptoms of the times, when they conceived the autumn of 1816 the most convenient opportunity for taking advantage of a single expedition to bestow an increase of salary on their servants. The ground on which this claim had been set up was an order of council of January 15, 1800, by which, on account of increase of duty in time of war, the secretary and some other persons were to have an increased salary. But the question was, had it been fairly

made out to the sense of any man that the time for which the increased salary had been given was what could fairly be understood as a case of war? Lord Exmouth was sent to Algiers in the double quality of a negociator and commander. When the attack was finally made and had succeeded, what did Lord Exmouth say? “Thus has a provoked war of two days existence been attended with a complete victory.” A quarter’s salary on the war establishment was claimed by the secretary, for a war said by the commander who conducted it to be of two days duration. If the commencement of this Algiers war was difficult to be settled, and had been settled wrong, its termination was no less curious: it was dated from the reception of the treaty at the Admiralty. These dates of the fitting out of the expedition and the arrival of the treaty in London might tally with the duration of the salary; but they could not be said to constitute the commencement and termination of a war, during the existence of which a war salary might be claimed. The navy pay-office, not thinking that the attack on Algiers constituted this country in a state of war

within

within the meaning of the order of 1800, refused to pay the war salary till they had consulted with the Admiralty. The navy-office by their question clearly thought that there was no title made out to an increase of emoluments on account of the expedition to Algiers. The utmost duration of the war, according to the admiral's statement, was two days, which, computing the rate of increase, entitled the hon. secretary to 5l. 3s. 9d. It might have happened that Lord Exmouth would have found the Dey ready to comply with the demands of the British government without coming to extremities; and what would have been the situation of the secretary then? There would have been no war, nor any additional allowance.

His lordship concluded with moving, "That the issue of the war salaries to the secretaries of the Admiralty, and certain other persons connected with the navy and dock-yards, in consideration of the expedition to Algiers, which terminated in hostilities with that government, is uncalled for by the order in council of January 15th, 1800, and therefore an improper application of the public money."

Mr. Croker said, that he was quite above denying the part he had taken in this matter. He had made the demand, because he thought it a matter of right, and due to the office. This right it was his duty first to establish, and then he might come forward and give up what the necessities of the times might seem to require. The question rested upon the construction of the order of council. That order stated, that during war the

fees of the secretaries of the Admiralty were very considerable, and in lieu of them it gave an increase of salary. He never demanded this increase as a favour, but as a pure right.

Sir Joseph Yorke observed, that the question to be decided was extremely simple. The salary of the first secretary was fixed at 3000l. per annum during peace, with an additional 1000l. in time of war: that of the second secretary was 1500l. in peace, and 2000l. in war. The commissioners of the navy did not send to the Admiralty to know whether this country was at war or not, but to ascertain at what time the war salary should commence. The answer of the Admiralty was, that it should be paid from the 29th of June to the 24th of September, the day on which the treaty was signed. He had no hesitation in signing the paper for the increase of salary, and should do the same thing if the paper were put again before him.

Admiral Markham said, that his opinion remained as at first, which was, that the secretary was not entitled to the war salary. If this was to be called a state of war, what was an armament? In the case of Nootka Sound, had the order of council existed at that period, was it to be supposed that the secretary of that time would be entitled to demand an additional salary? The expedition required no additional trouble: there was nothing to be completed but the armament.

The essential point of argument on this occasion was the question whether this was a case of declared war; or only, till the time of the commencement

commencement of hostilities, of a threatening armament? It was decided in favour of the ministry, but by a majority considerably less than their usual numbers. Lord Milton's motion was defeated by 169 to 114.

MOTION RESPECTING THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY.

On February 25th *Sir Matthew W. Ridley* rose to move an address to the Prince Regent, requesting him to remove such of the lords commissioners of the Admiralty as could be spared without detriment to the public service. After some observations respecting the former conduct of government, when they were prodigal in their promises of economy, and as prodigal in their waste of the public money, he said that he did not expect much from the measure he now proposed, but it would be laying the foundation of a system of reduction by which the undue influence of the ministers might be abridged. He then went through a cursory view of the formation and progress of the navy-board; and having attempted to shew that the present number of six lords of the Admiralty was much beyond the wants of the office now that the number of seamen was reduced from 140,000 to 19,000, he concluded with the following motion: "That an humble address be presented to his royal highness the Prince Regent, to represent to his royal highness, that his Majesty's faithful Commons, relying upon the gracious disposition of his royal highness to make every reduction in our establishments which the safety of the empire and sound policy allow, humbly pray, that his Royal Highness

would be graciously pleased to give directions, that the lords commissioners of the Admiralty may be reduced to such a number as the exigencies of the public service may actually require."

This motion being evidently, as the hon. baronet acknowledged, a trial of strength between the parties, it was argued chiefly upon that ground; the ministers and their friends strongly resisting any further attempts to limit the power of the crown; whilst it was still considered as abundantly too high in the nation at large, by the advocates for independence. The previous question being put, the House divided, when a majority appeared for the ministers of 208 to 152.

MOTION ON THE PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Lord Castlereagh, on February 7th, began his motion by causing the clerk of the House of Commons to read such part of the speech of the Prince Regent as was particularly addressed to that House, and which referred to the distress consequent upon the war, and his own confident expectation that at no distant period the native energy of the country would enable it to surmount its difficulties.

The time, said Lord C. was now come, when the House ought to consider what would be a proper permanent system for a peace establishment; and he trusted that gentlemen would bring to the subject that combination of firmness and wisdom which they so eminently exhibited in the course of that arduous contest in which Great Britain had been so long involved. The House would go along with him when he laid down

as an incontrovertible maxim, that no country, especially one so much involved in debt, could consider its prosperity in time of peace established on a firm foundation, unless its expenditure was reduced not only to the level, but below the level, of its revenue.

It was not his intention to go minutely through the several heads of expenditure in the different branches of our establishments for the present year; but he was desirous to state, that in order to prevent the House from being fettered by the votes which it might be necessary to call for, they would not be required to furnish sums for more than some months, so that the public service might be carried on in the mean time. To this circumstance, after some general observations, his lordship now proceeded.

He first requested the attention of the House to the subject of the army expenditure. The number of the land forces during the last year, (excluding those in France and India, which were otherwise provided for) was 99,000 men, namely 53,000 for the home service, and 46,000 for the foreign establishment. This was to be reduced in the present year by 18,000; that at home by 5000, and that in the colonies, &c. by 13,000: and thus the comparison between the two years would stand from 99,000 to 81,016. The total number for which a vote had been taken in the former year was 150,000 men; and the total number for this year would be proposed at only 123,000. The reason for this was, that by the convention with France the number of our troops there was to be reduced from 30,000 men to 25,000; and

the number of the government troops in India to be reduced from 20,000 to 17,000. In the estimates there would appear a sum of 220,000*l.* to be provided for on account of regiments which had not yet returned from abroad, but were on their way home, and in a course of reduction. The whole of the army estimates, with certain contingent expenses, and that of the militia, would amount to 7,050,000*l.*; to which the commissariat in Great Britain will add 500,000*l.* The barrack establishment has been reduced from 178,000 to 70 or 80,000. The army extraordinaries for this year will be 1,300,000*l.* Total charge for the army 9,230,000*l.* For the navy, the House had last year voted 33,000 men, of which, as 10,000 were in the progress of reduction, it was understood that only 23,000 would be the permanent establishment for the present year. But upon further consideration, it has been determined that a larger reduction was practicable, and 19,000 men have been proposed as the vote of the present year. The reduction of the wear and tear, ship-building, and other expenses, would, of course, be very considerable. On the whole, the aggregate of charges, comprehending all the various branches of the public service, will stand thus:

Army	£ 7,050,000
Commissariat and	
Barracks	880,000
Extraordinaries	1,300,000
Ordinance	1,246,000
Navy	6,397,000
Miscellaneous	1,500,000
<hr/>	
Gross total of charge	18,373,000
<hr/>	

This

This was the sum which his Majesty's ministers would propose to the House for the service of the present year; but it would be unfair to themselves not to desire them to distinguish between those items which might be more durable, from those which, although voted for the present year, would in all probability not again recur. For the army, for example, the sum of 220,000*l.* was for the purpose of defraying the expense of regiments all which were actually in a progress of reduction. The extraordinaries, as well as could be anticipated, would be reduced by 300,000*l.* and the ordnance by 50,000*l.* In the navy, he had stated, that 500,000*l.* of the sum proposed to be voted was for the liquidation of a transport debt. These several items added together would amount to 1,070,000*l.* which would diminish the future charge of the year to the same value.

There was another view of the subject which he was desirous that the House should take—that between charges which were for services that had been performed, and charges for services still to be performed. He had already stated that the army estimates contained a sum of 2,551,000*l.* for services that had actually been performed. If charges of the same kind were separated from the navy estimates, they would amount to 1,271,000*l.* Those in the ordnance service were 223,000*l.*; and the three services put together would amount to 4,045,000*l.* When the House was therefore occupied in contemplating the great existing charge of the army and navy, compared with those of former

times, he begged that they would always separate the charges which were wholly unconnected with the service of the present year.

The right hon. member then passed an eulogium on the Prince Regent, who had resigned to the public about a fifth of his whole receipts, namely, fifty thousand pounds; and he stated that the public servants of the crown were also anxious to offer their assistance by contributing what the property-tax, had it been continued, would have taken from them. In conclusion, he proposed the formation of a select committee to inquire into and state the income and expenditure of the united kingdom for the year ended the 5th of January, 1817; and also to consider and state the probable income and expenditure (so far as the same can now be estimated) for the years ending the 5th of January, 1818, and the 5th of January, 1819, respectively; and to report the same, together with their observations thereupon, to the House; and also to consider what further measures may be adopted for the relief of the country from any part of the said expenditure, without detriment to the public interest."

Mr. Brand said, that with respect to the first part of the noble lord's motion he had nothing at present to observe; but as to the second part, he thought that when, at such a conjuncture as the present, the House was about to inquire what reductions ought to take place in the public expenditure, placemen and persons holding sinecure-offices ought not to be on the committee. He should therefore move as an amendment,
 "That

“That the select committee to be appointed, should inquire into what reductions since the year 1798 had taken place in the salaries and emoluments of the different persons holding public offices, and to consider what farther measures might be instituted for farther reducing the expenditure of the country.”

The *Speaker* having suggested to Mr. B. that it would be necessary for him first to move, by way of amendment, that the second part of the noble lord's motion should be omitted, he shaped his motion accordingly.

After a considerable number of members had given their opinions, Mr. Brand's motion was put, and was negatived by 210 to 117.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The names of the members of the committee was at length appointed, when they stood as follows: Lord Castlereagh, Mr. Bankes, Mr. Tierney, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Binning, Mr. Bootle Wilbraham, Sir John Newport, Mr. Peele, Mr. Hart Davis, Sir George Clerk, Mr. Frankland Lewis, Mr. Huskinson, Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Nicholson Calvert, Mr. Davies Gilbert, Mr. Cartright, Mr. Holford, Mr. E. Littleton, Lord Clive, Mr. Gooch, Sir T. Ackland.

On May 5th, the first report of the Finance Committee, relating to the Abolition of Sinécures, being laid before the House, Mr. Davies Gilbert rose to address the committee. He began with observing that he had uniformly considered the existence of sinecure places as a great blot and blemish in the system of this country, and

had therefore repeatedly supported the propositions brought forward by his friend the member for Corfe Castle (Mr. Bankes). The system was peculiarly liable to the charge of favouritism; and another strong objection to it was its being granted in reversion, which always appeared to him a great abuse. It might be objected, that no great savings would result to the public from the abolition of those offices. The present savings indeed could not be much, because it was necessary that good faith should be kept with those who had vested interests; but in the course of a few years a material benefit would be effected. When the committee recommended that certain offices should no longer be suffered to exist, it was necessary that they should point out some other mode by which his Majesty could reward meritorious services. With this view a system was recommended, which, under certain restrictions, would answer every purpose. He alluded to the granting of pensions for services performed, the time during which individuals had occupied their offices being one of the criteria by which the crown was to be guided in rewarding the exertions of public officers. If the committee agreed to the motion with which he should conclude, namely, “That the chairman should be directed to apply to the House for leave to bring in certain bills for carrying into effect the recommendations contained in the report,” they would then have the subject introduced to them in a more detailed shape. After some further explanations, he moved “That the chairman be directed to

to move for leave to bring in a bill to abolish the offices of the Wardens, Chief Justices, and Justices in Eyre, north and south of 'Trent.'

Lord Castlereagh began by saying, that although on a former occasion he had stated his objections to the principle and object of a measure somewhat similar to the present, he was now willing to give his support to that laid before them. The power of the crown, he admitted, had increased since the war began; but on the return of peace, though they could not be restored to the state in which they were left before 1792, it had been more than proportionally reduced. The patronage of the crown was by no means excessive; for which reason he would support the present measure, because it did not bear upon the influence of the crown. His lordship then went into a severe criticism upon Mr. Bankes's bill, which he charged with tending to augment the burthens of the country, and with seeming to countenance the delusion which had spread through the people, who regarded sinecures as the chief evils of the nation. Motives, however, had grown up which induced him to favour the abolition of sinecures. It was very desirable to correct the false expectations which had been cherished, and the present measure would have that effect. It would not, indeed, be a great saving; but sinecures being bad in principle, it would operate as a cure to the impression which had gone abroad.

Mr. J. P. Grant said that he could not congratulate the House or the country upon the reasons

by which the noble lord supported the measure. Its recommendations were, that it did not in the slightest degree affect the influence of the crown; that it effected no economy; but that it was adapted to the cure of the poisoned public mind. To the noble lord, therefore, he must confine his congratulations; and he was the more decidedly of his opinion, when he recollected the purposes for which the committee had been appointed. At the first part of the session the noble lord hurried forward, so that he superseded the chancellor of the exchequer; and at length came an investigation of the difficulties and resources of the country. For three months, excepting three days, had the committee been occupied with this subject, and the result of their long and painful investigation was this report. They had been going over the ground that other committees had trod before them, and recommending paltry savings instead of executing the business before them. After a number of remarks, partly serious and partly sarcastical, respecting what had and what had not been done by the committee, Mr. G. concluded by saying, that with respect to the present motion, he certainly would not oppose it: it was to him a matter of perfect indifference, and as such he was persuaded it would be felt by the people, whose delusion, according to the noble lord, it was destined to remove.

Several other members spoke in the debate, which assumed much of personal attack. Mr. Gilbert's resolution being at length agreed to, he moved various other resolutions

lutions for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of the report. The House having resumed, leave was given to bring in the several bills.

JUSTICES IN EYRE.

On May 19th, the bill for abolishing the offices of Justices in Eyre was moved to be read a second time. It met with no other opposition, except a speech from *Mr. Boswell*, on the ground of his unwillingness to strip the crown of a power to reward public services; and after a reply from Lord Milton, the second reading was carried.

At the same time a motion was made for the second reading of another bill belonging to this class, entitled the Civil Services Compensation Bill. Various objections were raised to this bill, and the House was divided, when there appeared, For the second reading 105; Against it 45: Majority 60.

On the 6th of June, the order of the day standing for a committee on this bill, *Mr. Calcraft* said, that if he knew of a better plan of getting rid of sinecures, he would be ready, as a member of the committee who had recommended this bill, to adopt it; but he knew of none. Considering, however, that by its provisions the crown gave up 90 or 100,000*l.* and received back only 42,000*l.* he conceived it to be a good bargain for the public.

The House then resolved itself into a committee, in which a conversation took place on the several clauses of the bill.

The report was brought up on June 10th, when *Mr. D. Gilbert* moved several clauses, which were agreed to,

Mr. Calcraft moved a clause, "That any person who may accept a pension under this act, shall vacate his seat in parliament." The House divided upon this clause, when it was rejected by 64 against 27.

It was then moved, that the bill be read a third time to-morrow. The House again divided, Yeas 75; Noes 20: Majority 55.

In the House of Lords, on June 30th, the bills for the abolition of certain offices, and the compensation for civil services, were introduced by the *Earl of Liverpool*. His lordship, in his speech on this occasion, recommended the bills to the attention of the House, on two principles; 1st, That whatever regulation of this kind might be adopted, there was a necessity for reserving to the crown the means of rewarding public services: 2dly, That these means should be at the disposal of the crown. These principles, he attempted to shew, were sufficiently secured by the present bills. As to the sinecures bill, he said it was fit they should be given up, on two grounds—that the crown should have the power of rewarding services by direct, instead of indirect, compensation; and that the abolition would do away much of the unreasonable prejudice existing on this point. He then stated to the House the saving which would accrue to the public from the measures now proposed.

The bills were opposed upon different grounds; and especially because they seemed founded upon a forced concession in which the ministers were induced to act in direct opposition to the interests of

of the crown. The first bill being offered for committal, a division took place, in which it was carried by Contents 27 ; Non-contents 7.

IRISH PEACE PRESERVATION BILL.

On March 11th, *Mr. Peel* asked for leave to amend an act of the 54th of the King, for enabling the lord-lieutenant of Ireland to appoint superintendant magistrates and constables in those districts of Ireland which might become the scene of disturbance. The object of that bill was to supply a deficiency in the civil power, and to introduce something like an effective police, instead of having recourse on every occasion to a standing army. In the year 1814, when the right hon. gentleman brought forward the measure which he now wished to amend, he proposed that the lord-lieutenant in council should have the power of placing in disturbed districts magistrates specially appointed, and constables to assist them in preserving the peace. This measure met with the almost unanimous approbation of the House, and it was in three instances carried into execution, where it was found to produce a most beneficial effect. Under this act, the whole expense was to be defrayed by the disturbed districts; a mode of proceeding which might operate very well in some parts of Ireland; but others were so poor and exhausted, that they were unable to bear this expense, and it was therefore impossible to carry it into effect in those districts. It was to provide against the recurrence of cases of this kind, and to render it, as far as possible, unnecessary to employ the mili-

tary force, that he now asked for leave to amend the act. As the law at present stood, it was necessary on the appointment of a certain number of peace officers, to create a superintendent magistrate, who should act as the magistrate of the newly disturbed district. To prevent this accumulation of magistrates, he should propose, that different bodies of constables belonging to different districts, should be allowed to act under the same magistrate. He should next propose, that the lord-lieutenant and council should have the power of apportioning what part of the expense incurred by a disturbed district should be paid by the inhabitants, and what should come out of the public funds. This last amendment would direct, that in all cases where the act was introduced, an account should be laid before parliament of the expense to be defrayed by the public, and also of the appointments made under it. With respect to the objections relative to expense which might be urged against the bill, if it were said that it would be better not to pay constables to preserve the peace, but to leave it for the population in general to exert themselves to keep the peace, he should answer, that such a system could not at present be effectual; in which statement he would be borne out by every gentleman connected with Ireland. He had further the satisfaction of being able to state that a considerable reduction was proposed to be made in the army of that country. Instead of 25,000 men, it would be reduced to 22,000; and the seven brigades of ordnance which now consisted of

of 400 guns, would be brought down to 200 guns. Thus a great expense would be removed; and, what was much more important, a foundation would be laid of inspiring the people with an habitual obedience to the law.

The right hon gentleman concluded by moving, "That leave be given to bring in a bill to amend the act 54 Geo. 3d. c. 131. to provide for the better execution

of the laws in Ireland, by appointing superintending magistrates and additional constables in certain cases."

Mr. Carew, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. V. Fitzgérald, expressed their approbation of the proposed measure. Leave was then given to bring in the bill; and there is no notice of its being opposed in either House.

CHAPTER IV.

Issue of Exchequer Bills for local and temporary Relief.—Mr. Tierney's Motion renewed, for the Abolition of the Office of Third Secretary of State for the Colonies.—Roman Catholic Question.—House of Commons—House of Lords.

EXCHEQUER BILLS.

ON April 28th, the House of Commons having resolved itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the best mode of issuing exchequer bills for the relief of temporary distresses, the *Chancellor of the Exchequer* said, that before he proceeded to explain the object of the proposition which he had to submit to the committee, he would read the two resolutions in which that proposition was comprised. The first was, "That it is the opinion of this committee, that his Majesty be enabled to direct an issue of exchequer bills to an amount not exceeding 500,000*l.* to commissioners, to be by them advanced towards the completion of public works, now in progress, or about to be commenced; to encourage the fisheries, and to employ the poor in different parishes in Great-Britain, on due security being given for the repayment of the sums so advanced." The second was, "That the lord-lieutenant of Ireland be empowered to advance out of the consolidated fund of that kingdom a sum not exceeding 250,000*l.* for the completion of public works, or the encouragement of fisheries, in Ireland, under condition of repayment in a time to be limited."

In this last resolution there was a difference as to form, on account of some circumstances which he should afterwards explain.

The right hon. gentleman then went into an explanation of his plan. In former cases a special committee had been appointed to inquire into the existing distress; but in the present case such a plan was unnecessary, as the House was but too well acquainted with the extent of the prevailing evil. The commissioners who were to have the disposal of this money would particularly consider the influence that the prosecution of any public work would have upon the employment of the present unemployed population. There were a great variety of such works which had already received the sanction of parliament, of which many parts were finished, but were useless until the whole were completed. To these the attention of parliament had been intended to be called in a direct manner; but it was now considered that it would be more beneficial if the money were placed at the disposal of commissioners quite unconnected with government. He would propose that those commissioners should be empowered to advance sums, by way of loans, to corporations and other bodies for the purpose of making harbours

or

or canals, or to trustees of roads, or to any persons engaged in public works now in progress, or about to undertake them. The associations for the encouragement of the fisheries would likewise be a very proper institution to receive aid. In Ireland it would not be practicable to nominate a similar commission without such a delay as would defeat the purpose of the grant. It would be necessary to enter into a correspondence with that country to know what gentleman would undertake a duty which would entail some trouble without any prospect of reward. To avoid that delay, the sum appropriated to that country would be placed at the disposal of the lord-lieutenant.

With respect to advances on the security of the poor-rates, he had never thought that any thing could be done towards the relief of the agricultural population by the loan of any such sum as he then proposed to advance. He was also afraid that loans to the agricultural districts in aid of the poor-rates, would encourage the practice of curtailing the fair wages of labour, and supplying the deficiency from such a source. When the bill came before the House there would be found clauses which would guard against such an idea. The advance to be granted to parishes was never to exceed the half of the last year's rate, and no advance was to be made to any parish except where the rate was double the average of the two preceding years. Speaking of the particular distresses of Birmingham, he attributed a considerable part of it to the falling off of the supply of small arms

for the use of the allies, which amounted to no less than three millions during the war. That the general demand of goods for the foreign trade had not suffered in an equal proportion, he concluded from the official value of the exports of steel and iron from the year 1814. From the persons best acquainted with the trade of the country, he thought that a loan of 30 or 40,000*l.* to the manufacturers of Birmingham would be of material service in the present exigence. The right hon. gentleman concluded with proposing his first resolution.

Several members found it necessary to desire explanations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer respecting different subjects; whilst others were very doubtful whether any good would be the result of his project. The resolution was, however, put and carried; as was also the second concerning Ireland.

On the 14th of May, the *Chancellor of the Exchequer* rose to move the order of the day, that the House would resolve itself into a committee, to take into consideration the bill for the Employment of the Poor. He said he had introduced a considerable number of amendments into the bill, which he thought would remove some of the objections raised to it. He would not at present enter into the merits of these amendments, as a better opportunity would hereafter occur.

Some additional observations were made upon the bill; after which the report was brought up, and a day was appointed for a farther consideration.

On the 21st of May, on the motion

motion for recommitting this bill, various objections were made to its principle, which were replied to by its friends. The House then went into a committee, and a desultory conversation took place on its several clauses. The bill afterwards passed.

In the House of Lords it was introduced by the *Earl of Liverpool*, who briefly stated its objects, on June 10th. The *Earl of Lauderdale* spoke against it, but no division being proposed, the bill was read a third time, and passed.

It is observable, that when the first mention was made of an intention of introducing such a bill, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the sum of money which he spoke of proposing was between one and two millions. But the actual sum contained in his two resolutions amounts only to 750,000*l.* and it does not appear that any thing farther was required.

THIRD SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COLONIES.

On April 29th, *Mr. Tierney* rose to renew, in point of substance, though not of form, a motion relative to the abolition of the office of third secretary of state for the colonies, in which he had been defeated during the sessions of the last year. He now intended to move for a committee to inquire into that subject; not, he said, that there were any doubts in his own mind as to the propriety of abolishing the office; but because he saw that in questions of this kind, he had not the smallest chance of success in any other way. One great inducement for him to undertake this subject was,

that he had the previous sanction of his Majesty's ministers; for a committee of their own appointment had been named in the last year by the lords of the treasury for purposes under which this subject particularly fell. They were confined in their operations to all offices created since the commencement of the war in 1793. The office of third secretary of state had been created in 1794; and how it could escape the notice of the committee was to him quite unintelligible.

All (the right hon. gentleman said) that he had now to do, was to make out a case strong enough to refer the subject to the examination of a committee. The increase of colonies since 1792, was all that he had to meet. These were, in fact, nine in number, for he would not include Heligoland, nor yet St. Helena. Four of these were in the West Indies, three in the East Indies, and two in the Mediterranean. Those in the West Indies were nowise connected with those in the East Indies, and neither of them with those in the Mediterranean. His proposal was therefore to make over the four first to the home department; the three next to the board of control, and (said he) they might add St. Helena, though it would not give much additional trouble; as it might rather be considered as a gaol under the care of the police of Europe. Malta should belong to the foreign secretary. As to the Ionian islands, he scarcely knew how to speak, whether they were our own or not; but he apprehended that the nature of Sir Thomas Maitland's connexion with them was not colonial, but purely political.

After various other observations
on

on the subject, partly serious and partly sarcastic, he concluded by moving, "That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the business now remaining to be executed by the secretary of state for the war and colonial department, and to report their opinion, whether the continuance of the same be any longer necessary; and whether the duties performed by the said department may without inconvenience to the public service be transferred to any other offices, and with what diminution of charge."

Mr. Goulburn said, that the period which had elapsed between the first institution of the colonial department in 1768 and 1782, would form a fit subject of comparison with that which had elapsed between 1802 and 1816; for which purpose he would take the pages of entry in the books of office as a fair criterion. In the 14 years of the first period, the number of pages for twelve colonies amounted to 3139, giving an average of about 224 for each year. The same twelve colonies in the second period filled a number of pages amounting to 6098, forming an average of about 435 for each year; so that the quantity of business in these colonies was nearly doubled. But if the whole business of the North American colonies be added to that of the twelve above stated, and opposed to each other in the two periods, the disparity would be found infinitely greater. The number of pages written from 1768 to 1782, averages 446 per annum; whilst that from 1802 to 1816 rises to 1994. It might be supposed that the increase in the latter period was occasioned by the war:

but the fact was otherwise; for the war had only made a difference of about 500 pages per annum, and the remainder was occasioned by the ordinary influx of business. This difference, in a great degree, was imputed by the right hon. gentleman to the extension of education in every quarter of the empire, which has afforded to almost every person in public life, the opportunity of addressing the different offices of government. It was this which had created the necessity for a third secretary of state, and had increased the public business beyond all former precedent.

Mr. Wilberforce declared, that from all he knew and heard of the office in question, it was overloaded with business; and such, from what he understood, was the case in the home department. The House then should duly consider, whether the business of the colonies would be exposed to any neglect by acceding to the proposed arrangement. He was of opinion that it required an individual of great consideration to look after concerns so important to the public interests: a person who should hold a high station in the public eye. The saving of 12,000*l.* a year was, doubtless, a serious consideration; but the question was, whether the saving of 12,000*l.* a year would not be much too dearly purchased by hazarding the good government of the colonies. It appeared to him, that the superintendence of our colonial concerns should constitute the business of a distinct, efficient, and dignified department.

Mr. Ponsonby, in allusion to the last speaker, and the compliments he

he had bestowed upon the mover of the question, said he was one who would give any thing to a man but his vote. He proceeded to say, that there was only one solid reason that could be urged against the present motion, and that was, that the departments among which the business of the colonies was proposed to be divided, were already over-worked with their own separate concerns. But none of those persons stepped forward to make such a declaration, because they knew full well that the state of the case would not bear them out. After all (said he) what was the motion? Did it invite the House at once to abolish the office? All his right Hon. Friend wanted was, that they should go into an inquiry whether they could save 12,000*l.* a year to the country.

After some other speakers had delivered their opinion on both sides. the House divided, when there appeared, For the motion 87, Against it 190: Majority 103.

ROMAN CATHOLIC QUESTION.

On May 9th, *Mr. Grattan*, on rising to submit to the House of Commons his motion on the subject of the Roman Catholic claims, moved that the petition of the Roman Catholics of Ireland to the House, presented on April 26, 1816, should be read. This being done accordingly, *Mr. W. Elliot* next moved, that the petition of the Roman Catholics of England presented on May the 21st. 1816, should also be read; which was done.

Mr. Grattan then said, that

having been applied to by the Roman Catholics of Ireland to bring their case under the consideration of the House, he now proceeded to discharge the duty he had undertaken. The resolution which he intended to move was the same which was carried in 1813, and does no more than to pledge the House to examine the penal laws, with a view to relieve the Catholics, to give every security possible to the Protestant establishment, and ultimately to satisfy all ranks and orders of men in the empire. He proceeded to say, that the present question was not about the means by which securities might be effected, but whether any securities whatever will be received. There is a communication between the Pope and the Catholic clergy, which must end either in incorporation with the see of Rome, or connexion with the government of England; and if the latter be refused, it will be dangerous to the safety of England.

The right hon. gentleman, who reserved himself for a reply, now moved, "That this House will resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, to take into its most serious consideration the state of the laws affecting his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects in Great Britain and Ireland, with a view to such final and conciliatory adjustment as may be conducive to the peace and strength of the United Kingdom, to the stability of the Protestant establishment, and to the general satisfaction and concord of all classes of his Majesty's subjects."

The motion having been seconded and put from the chair,
[E] Mr.

Mr. Leslie Foster rose, and after stating the character of the two parties into which the Irish Catholics were divided during the last year, he proceeded to show what the conditions are on which they seem now agreed. The nomination of the Bishops has for a long time been as practically domestic as any possible arrangement can make it. When a see is vacant, a recommendation is forwarded to Rome from Ireland, and within memory not more than two or three instances have occurred of any difficulty in confirming this choice. Lately, it is said, the persons thus nominated in Ireland have been the coadjutors of the deceased bishop, who has been selected by the bishop in his life-time. The transmission of the episcopal rank has therefore, in practice, been a mere matter of testamentary bequest. Some persons, it seems, now propose that the elections shall hereafter be made by the deans and chapters; but if they should, will this mode be either less domestic, or more conducive to give satisfaction to a Protestant, than the present? The proposition of domestic nomination is distinctly this—that the Protestants and Catholics having each much to require, and much to give up, the Protestants are to cede all that remains, and the Catholics are to make the single concession of remaining exactly as they are, as the ground of being admitted to a complete participation of political power.

After some discussion of the principle of the *veto*, Mr. L. F. proceeded to the consideration of the manner in which the Pope is

treated by the different powers of Europe, which he borrowed from the work of Sir J. C. Hippesley. He concluded, We have thus, Sir, looked around Europe, and seen Calvinists, and Lutherans, and Roman Catholics, and Christians of the Greek communion, agreeing in two propositions: first, that the patronage of the higher stations of the Catholic clergy must be vested in the state; and secondly, that the most vigorous superintendence must be exercised over all their communications with the see of Rome. And therefore, when the right honourable gentleman asks, whether this country will continue to be the only great nation that shall persist in intolerance, I say, that his question rather ought to be, whether this nation will determine to be the only one in Europe which shall consent to place the Roman Catholic religion in a situation so free from all practical control, as to form a complete *imperium in imperio* within its bosom.

Mr. Yorke said, that the great difficulty he had always found of bringing this question to a satisfactory result was *the foreign influence*; and no consideration could induce him to yield in any material degree to the petitions of the Roman Catholics, but the prospect of security to the Protestant establishment from such an influence. In formerly giving his opinion on this subject, he had always said, that he thought it could only be usefully taken up when the Pope was master of himself. This was now the case; and the question appeared to stand upon more favourable ground with respect to any communications that might

might be necessary with the holy see; it also appeared to stand more favourably with respect to the petitioners themselves. First, they stated themselves to be willing to acquiesce in the form of the oath proposed to them in the bill of 1813. Secondly, as to the nomination of bishops, it was, in his opinion, necessary to take away from the Pope the virtual nomination of the Catholic bishops in this kingdom; and if this plan were adopted, he was not inclined to forebode more danger to the church establishment from hence, than from the elections without the interference of government in the church of Scotland. There was a third point not taken notice of in the Catholic petitions, which appeared to him of importance with regard to security; which was that of the *regium exequatur*, or *regium placitum*, which admitted the right of all governments to inspect every bull, rescript, or other document coming from Rome, previous to publication, and of authorising it (except in cases relating merely to points of conscience), in the same manner as in all the other states of Europe, Catholic or Non-Catholic. This, he supposed, would not be objected to by any rational Roman Catholic as a measure of security, to which he, for one, looked forward as an essential part of any future arrangement.

Sir Henry Parnell returned thanks to Mr. Yorke for his very valuable, cordial, and conciliating speech; and he hoped to be able to satisfy him that the Catholics were perfectly willing to do all those things which the right hon. gentleman required should be

done. In order to understand exactly the proposed plan of domestic nomination of all future bishops, it was necessary that the House should know the proceedings which now took place for filling a bishop's see when vacant. The bishops of the province in which he had been situated assembled together, and having consulted with the priest of the vacant diocese, named certain persons as fit to be chosen by the Pope for the new bishop. It had been nearly the constant practice of the Pope to choose the person whose name stood first on the list; but there was no law to compel him to do so. It was to exclude the possibility of any such proceeding, and to render all future appointments entirely those of the Catholic Irish priests and bishops, that it was now proposed that the Pope should issue a concordat by which he should bind himself to appoint no person to be a bishop in Ireland, except such as should be in the first place elected by the Irish clergy themselves. It was then proposed by the Catholic bishops to have the following provisions inserted in every bill. [These were provisos stipulating that no Roman Catholic clergyman shall be elected a bishop who is not a native of his Majesty's dominions, and who has not taken an elective oath guarding church and state from any future dangers.] As the Pope had communicated his readiness to give his consent to this plan of electing the bishops by a larger number of clergy than had hitherto been concerned in the nomination, and also to grant the necessary concordatum to bind himself to give

institution to the person so elected, all possibility of foreign influence in the appointment would be completely excluded, and the selection of a proper person would be secured by the oath above mentioned.

Mr. Webber in a long speech gave a detailed view of all that had occurred respecting the Roman Catholics of Ireland, from which he drew the inference, that the measure now proposed is utterly hopeless as a plan of conciliation.

Mr. Bathurst, in speaking against the motion, said, that one of the most extraordinary assumptions in the arguments on this occasion was, that things were now brought to such a state, that some change *must* be effected in the laws respecting the Roman Catholics. This he denied *in toto*; and maintained, that unless the House was prepared to overturn the fundamental principles of the constitution, it was impossible to accede to the concession called for.

Lord Castlereagh said, that one of the difficulties which attended this discussion was, that it was scarcely possible to adduce one new argument or new topic which was not already exhausted on each side of the question. At the same time it was not the less necessary that Parliament should, with all convenient speed, deliver itself from the agitation of this painful subject. It was, however, to be recollected, that there was no probability that this question could be laid asleep, by persisting in a system of permanent exclusion. After the noble lord had delivered his opinion with respect to the subjects of concession and se-

curity, he declared that he found himself, as on former occasions, bound in duty to support his right honourable friend's motion. He was persuaded that the question could not be otherwise got rid of. He saw no danger in the measure; and he did not believe that the *quantum* of power which it would give the Catholics would enable them to do mischief, even if they were so disposed.

Mr. Peel, after some preliminary observations, said, that there are two systems possible to be adopted in Ireland, between which we must make our choice: the one is that on which we are acting at present, the other that which we are called upon to substitute in its place. By the first we give every toleration to the faith of the majority, but maintain that of the minority as the religion of the state. We exclude them from offices which are immediately connected with the government of the country, admitting them generally to all other offices and distinctions. This system it is proposed to replace by another, which shall equally profess to maintain the religion of the minority, as the established religion, but shall open to the Roman Catholics both Houses of Parliament, and every office in Ireland, exclusive of that lord lieutenant. It will be my purpose to prove that the law we are now acting upon is preferable to that which it is proposed to substitute in its room. Do not suppose (said *Mr. P.*) that I think that they constitute in the abstract a perfect system, or that I rejoice in the exclusions and disabilities which they induce. I regret that they are

are necessary, but I firmly believe that you cannot alter them in any essential point for the better. Mr. P. then entered into an examination of the existing laws, with those meant to be proposed to supply their places, and in every instance he attempted to show, that remaining just where we are is the only safe and solid ground of defence.

Mr. Grattan made a concluding speech with much force and animation. He began with positively denying that there was any general disposition in the Catholics to object to any security; for what is for the good of the whole is for the good of the Catholic. After pursuing this idea to a considerable length, he said, some honourable gentlemen speak of the constitution, the state, and religion, as opposite to the motion. Let them state in what the dangers consist. Until they do so, their arguments are of no avail. Without the foundation of facts they prophesy consequences, for the purpose of perpetuating disqualifications on their fellow subjects. The Catholic claims have now been agitating for nine-and-thirty years. They have gone through every kind of consideration, and their interest doubles at every discussion. In these discussions no doubt individual irritation has occasionally appeared, and poison has occasionally been infused into the minds of the Irish population. Is this state of things to be allowed to exist any longer? Are we to continue that sort of English connexion in Ireland, which is called a *settlement*, and which must be defended by an army paid by the people over

whom it is placed? This is a system which cannot last: depend upon it that it cannot. If you exclude the people from connexion with their own state, they will in the natural course of things attach themselves elsewhere. One part of the Irish population is morbid and excluded; another is unnaturally vivacious. Let a new order of things mark the times in which we live; and let an immediate and effectual termination be put to any clandestine intercourse between the Catholics and the see of Rome.

The right hon. gentleman's peroration was to the following effect: "When I see Britain grown up into a mighty empire; when I behold her at the head of the nations of the earth; when I contemplate her power and majesty; I own that I am deeply astonished to find her descending from her elevation to mix in the disputes of schoolmen and the wrangling of theologians, who, while they seek for their own purposes to torture their countrymen, endanger the security of their common country."

The question being at length loudly called for, there appeared

For the motion	221
Against it.	245

Majority	24
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On May 16, the *Earl of Donoughmore* rose in the House of Lords to move for a committee to consider the petitions of his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects. He said, that he had caused to be placed upon their lordships table two petitions which he had the honour of presenting to the House during the last session, on the

the same subject. One of these was that of the Roman Catholic nobility and other respectable persons of the laity; the other that of the prelates and clergy of the Roman Catholic church. Both of these parties were equally desirous of again offering their petitions to the view of their lordships; it is necessary, therefore (said the Earl) that the House should be perfectly aware that they have now before them the whole Catholic people of Ireland, represented by these, their humble petitioners.

His lordship proceeded to say, that thinking it his duty to abstain as much as possible from all generalities, he should prefer laying the case of the petitioners before the House in the shape of a refutation of those calumnies with which they have been so industriously loaded. In the course which he had chalked out for himself, the first objection which occurred might seem rather to suit the period when their lordships had gone into a committee. The Catholics might previously be asked, "What is your object? We will not go into a committee to grope our way in the dark, and seek out principles for you." But it appears from the public press that securities of a threefold nature have been devised; namely, domestic nomination; the security called the veto; and the payment by government of the Catholic church. With respect to domestic nomination, the enemies of the Catholics say that this is no new security at all, for such has been the ancient mode of electing Catholic bishops almost without an exception. But though this is giving nothing new, looking to

the present practice, yet a great deal is given in confirming for ever the principle of domestic nomination. As to the veto, his lordship acknowledged he cannot offer that, since he certainly disapproves of it as a member of Parliament, being convinced that it would commit the Catholic prelacy and priesthood most effectually to the Irish provincial government. He objected also to the payment of the Catholic church by the state, as a mode which would destroy the just reward which they receive for their religious labours. My measure, said his lordship, is a direct and absolute nomination, which is what I mean to propose if you shall be pleased to go into a committee.

The Earl then answered those arguments which he found scattered here and there in different publications relative to the subject. In general they seemed to require little attention; but one, which bears hard on the Pope for his anathemas against sending forth the Scriptures among Catholics without a commentary, received a retort which, as respecting the Pope, appears unanswerable. If it can be shown (says his lordship) that reverend divines of high rank in this country have held a similar principle, then this act cannot be alleged against the head of the Catholic church as an intolerant one. There are, my Lords, two members of that reverend bench who are most strongly opposed to the system of disseminating the Bible without a suitable comment. I wish to avoid any possible misrepresentation, and to pay every mark of respect to the right reverend prelate

late opposite me, and have therefore copied from the pamphlet, published by him on the subject of Bible societies, his own words. The words made use of by the right rev. prelate, (the Bishop of Landaff) are these. "But it is urged, if you still require that the Bible, however extensively you may wish to distribute it, should be accompanied by the liturgy, you must certainly suspect that there is danger to the established church from the distribution of the Bible alone. Here let me ask whether the Bible itself is not capable of perversion? Whether the best of books may not be misapplied to the worst of purposes. Have we not inspired authority for answering this question in the affirmative?—But if we neglect to provide the poor of the establishment with the book of Common Prayer as well as with the Bible, we certainly neglect the means of preventing their seduction from the established church. The dissenters remain dissenters, because they use not the liturgy; and churchmen will become dissenters if they likewise neglect to use it with the people. Have the persons to whom Bibles are gratuitously distributed either the leisure, or the inclination, or the ability, to weigh the arguments for religious opinions? Do they possess the knowledge or the judgment which are necessary to direct men in the choice of their religion? Must they not learn it, therefore, from their instructors? And can there be a better instructor, in the opinion of churchmen, than the book of Common Prayer?"

The Earl concluded his speech

with moving, "That this House do resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, to consider the petitions of his Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects."

The speeches on each side were upon the whole so similar to those delivered in the House of Commons, that little addition by way of argument can be expected from them. It may, however, be desirable to give a view of what the *Earl of Liverpool*, regarded as the prime-minister of this country, considered as the leading point.

I now come (said his lordship) to the main question: Are the Catholics entitled to enjoy privileges equal to those enjoyed by the members of the established religion? It has been well observed, that in point of abstract principle, no description of persons can complain of unequal privileges who voluntarily place themselves in a situation by which they forfeit their right to equal privileges. I ask, not only as it affects the Catholics, but as it affects every other body of dissenters from the establishment; do they, when they require equal privileges, offer equal conditions? If they do not, can it be contended that there is any injustice in distinguishing between them? I have always considered that the civil establishment was necessarily interwoven with the church establishment. This will be found a leading and unalienable principle in the earlier periods of our history. It was the leading principle at the period of the Revolution, when the connexion between the state and the church was solemnly recognized. On that I rest: to that I will adhere. The moment

moment you throw open the door to equal and general concession, and say that the only difference between the churches of the dissenters and the churches of the establishment is the ecclesiastical establishment of the latter, that moment you will cease to possess the means of maintaining what is essential to the security of your establishment. Parliament will immediately cease to be a Protestant parliament.

To this strain of reasoning, *Earl Grey* made the following reply. The noble Earl opposite has stated one danger, but it is of a nature somewhat unsubstantial, although he earnestly calls your Lordships attention to it. It is, that if the Catholics shall be admitted into full participation of the privileges of the British constitution, the Parliament of this country can no longer be called exclusively a Protestant Parliament. Really, my Lords, this is

the first time that I have heard the name of a thing prized beyond the substance. The noble Earl argues in this manner. He thinks that though the Parliament would be substantially the same, great danger is to be apprehended if two or three Catholic representatives should be admitted into the other House, and two or three Catholic peers restored to their hereditary seats in this House. Surely never did the wit of man devise a danger more futile and imaginary than this!

The House being at length divided upon Lord Donoughmore's motion, the numbers stood as follows:

Contents, present . . .	54
Proxies	36
	—— 90
Non-contents, present	82
Proxies	60
	—— 142
	——
Majority against the motion	52

CHAPTER V.

Resignation of the Speaker, and subsequent Proceedings.—Lord Sidmouth's circular Letter discussed in both Houses.

SPEAKER'S RESIGNATION.

ON May 30th, the following letter was read from the Speaker of the House of Commons, addressed to Jeremiah Dyson, Esq. deputy clerk of the House.

SIR,

It is with the sincerest concern and regret that I feel myself obliged to request that you will inform the House of Commons at their meeting this day, of my inability, from continued illness, to attend any longer upon their service.

After holding the high office to which I have been raised by that favour in five successive Parliaments, it is impossible that I should resign so honourable and distinguished a situation without feeling the deepest gratitude for the constant kindness with which they have been pleased to accept and assist my humble endeavours to discharge its various and arduous duties.

It was my earnest wish and hope to have continued longer in the service of the House, if such were their pleasure; but the interruption of public business which has been already occasioned by my state of health, and the apprehension of the same cause recurring, which might again expose the House to the like inconvenience, have made me deem it necessary that I should retire at this time, and have left me now

no further duty to perform than to return my heartfelt acknowledgments to the House for all the favours they have bestowed upon me, and to express my fervent wishes for the perpetual maintenance and preservation of its rights, its privileges, and its independence. I am, Sir,

always most truly your's,

CHARLES ABBOT.

Lord Castlereagh then proposed that the House should adjourn till Monday next, when it was probable they would receive a communication from the Prince Regent on the subject. — Adjourned.

On June 2, there being an unusually full attendance of members; *Lord Castlereagh* rose, and said that he was commanded by the Prince Regent to acquaint the House, that being anxious that no further delay should arise in the progress of public business, he was desirous that they should immediately proceed to the election of a new Speaker.

Sir J. Nicholl, addressing himself to the deputy clerk, then arose, and after paying a well-merited compliment to the Speaker, he presented the Right Hon. Charles Manners Sutton to the choice of this House.

He was seconded by *Mr. E. J. Littleton*.

Mr. Dickinson then rose to recommend *Mr. Charles Watkin Williams*

Williams Wynn to the same post, in which he was seconded by Sir *M. W. Ridley*.

The two candidates having paid their proper respects to the House, each party proceeded to election, when *Mr. Manners Sutton* was chosen by 312 to 150. On the following day the approbation of the Prince Regent was signified to him by his Majesty's commissioners in the House of Lords.

On the same day, Lord Castlereagh presented the following message from the Prince Regent.

"The Prince Regent, acting in the name and in the behalf of his Majesty, thinks it right to inform the House of Commons, that having taken into his consideration the eminent and distinguished services of the Right Honourable Charles Abbot, during the long and eventful period in which he had filled the situation of Speaker of that House, has conferred upon him the dignity of a baron of the united kingdom by the title of Baron Colchester, of Colchester, in the county of Essex; and the Prince Regent recommends to the House of Commons to enable him to make such provision for Charles Lord Colchester, and for the heir male of his body who may next succeed to the title, as shall, under all the circumstances, be judged just and reasonable."

GEORGE, P. R.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* moved, that the message of the Prince Regent respecting a provision for Lord Colchester be taken into consideration on Thursday next.

Mr. Wynn expressed his astonishment at the mode of proceeding

adopted by the advisers of the crown on this occasion. No one could concur more willingly in a vote of thanks to Lord Colchester than himself; but why did the crown interfere to prevent the House from going further, and from originating any other reward which was due to his acknowledged merits? His services had been performed in that House; and from it, therefore, ought their recompence to proceed. It was not a matter of indifference that persons sitting in that chair should be accustomed to look to the crown for the reward of their exertions in it. Had the message been preceded by an address, every objection would have been precluded; but the services in question were of that nature which, for peculiar reasons, ought in the first instance to be fully recognized and appreciated by the House.

Lord Castlereagh said, that the right hon. person having been raised to the dignity of the peerage, the purport of the message ought to be understood as inviting the House to make a provision in consequence of the title, and not of his services as Speaker.

Mr. Ponsonby was surprised at the noble lord's explanation, who might find from the very words of the message, that it was founded upon those services.

After several other observations, *Mr. Wynn* repeated his anxious wish that the motion should be withdrawn, and another substituted that would meet the wishes of every member in that House.

The *Chancellor of the Exchequer* admitted the candour of the hon. member's

member's intimation. He apprehended that it might be the most satisfactory course that he should withdraw the motion he had already made, and give notice of his intention to move an address to the crown on this subject on Thursday next.

The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

On June 5th, *Lord Castlereagh* rose in the House, and after a handsome compliment to the late Speaker, he moved, "That the thanks of this House be expressed to the Right Hon. Charles Abbot, now Baron Colchester, for his eminent and distinguished services during the long and eventful period in which he discharged the duties of Speaker with a zeal and ability alike honourable to himself, and advantageous to the service of this House: that he be assured that the proofs he has uniformly given of attachment to his King and Country; the exemplary firmness with which he has maintained the dignity and privileges of this House; the ability, integrity, and unremitting attention to parliamentary business, which have marked the whole of his conduct; justly entitle him to the approbation, respect, and gratitude of this House."

This motion was agreed to, and the Speaker was directed to communicate the resolution to Lord Colchester.

Lord Castlereagh then moved, "That an humble address be presented to his royal highness the Prince Regent, to beseech his Royal Highness that he will be graciously pleased, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, to confer some signal

mark of the royal favour upon Charles Lord Colchester, late Speaker of this House, for his great and eminent services performed to his country during the long and important period in which he has, with such distinguished ability and integrity, presided in the chair of this House; and to assure his Royal Highness, that whatever expense his Royal Highness shall think proper to be incurred upon that account, this House will make good the same."

Mr. Ponsonby said, that the House was already in one difficulty, and he was afraid that the wording of the address was calculated to produce another. The objection on a former day was that the crown should be the first proposer of the grant; and they were now told that the crown ought to determine the amount.

After some discussion upon this matter, the motion was agreed to *nem. con.*

The Speaker, on the next day, reported Lord Colchester's answer to the resolution of the House of Commons.

Lord Castlereagh then laid before the House the answer of the Prince Regent to their address, which was to the following purpose:

"The Prince Regent has the justest sense of the long services and great merit of Charles Lord Colchester, late Speaker of the House of Commons: and in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty has already taken the same into his consideration. The Prince Regent is desirous, in compliance with the wishes of his Majesty's faithful Commons, to confer upon the said Lord Colchester

chester some further signal mark of his favour; but as the same cannot be effectually granted and secured without the concurrence of Parliament, his Royal Highness recommends to the House of Commons the adoption of such measures as may be necessary for the accomplishment of this purpose."

On the 9th of June, the House having resolved itself into a committee to take into consideration the Prince Regent's answer to their address, the *Chancellor of the Exchequer* entered upon the subject of the provision which it was desirable to allow Lord Colchester. His proposal was, that Mr. Speaker Onslow having at the beginning of this reign retired from the chair with an allowance of 3000*l.* a year, the depreciation of the value of money since that time, and the extraordinary augmentation of duty which the Speaker had to perform, would render the addition of one thousand pounds not too liberal a vote. He accordingly moved a resolution to that effect.

This was regarded as an overpayment by several members; and Mr. Tierney humorously said, that "as to the anxiety that had been talked of, the Speaker felt less than any man in the House, or perhaps was the only man entirely without anxiety: he existed in a sort of middle atmosphere, to bend his head to one side or the other, and enjoy the fray."

Mr. Lambton moved that the words 3000*l.* a year be substituted for 4000*l.*; upon which the committee divided: For the amendment, 42; against it, 126. The original motion was then agreed to.

Mr. Sumner then moved for an

extension of the reversionary grant to the late Speaker, to two lives; which was negatived.

LORD SIDMOUTH'S LETTER.

Lord Sidmouth, on March 27, 1817, sent the following circular letter to his Majesty's lieutenants of counties throughout England and Wales.

My Lord,—As it is of the greatest importance to prevent, as far as possible, the circulation of blasphemous and seditious pamphlets and writings, of which for a considerable time past great numbers have been sold and distributed throughout the country; I have thought it my duty to consult the law servants of the crown, whether an individual found selling, or in any way publishing such pamphlets or writings, might be brought immediately before a justice of the peace, under a warrant issued for the purpose, to answer for his conduct. The law officers having accordingly taken this matter into their consideration, have notified to me their opinion, that a justice of the peace may issue a warrant to apprehend a person, charged before him upon oath with the publication of libels of the nature in question, and compel him to give bail to answer the charge.

Under these circumstances, I beg leave to call your lordship's attention very particularly to this subject; and I have to request, that if your lordship should not propose to attend in person at the next general quarter sessions of the peace, to be holden in and for the county under your lordship's charge, you would make known to the chairman of such sessions the substance of this communication

tion, in order that he may recommend to the several magistrates to act thereupon, in all cases where any person shall be found offending against the law in the manner above-mentioned.

I beg leave to add, that persons vending pamphlets or other publications, in the manner alluded to, should be considered as coming under the provisions of the Hawkers and Pedlars' Act, and be dealt with accordingly, unless they show that they are furnished with a licence as required by the said act.

I have the honour to be, &c.

SIDMOUTH.

To this circular letter was subjoined a copy of that of the two law officers, the attorney and solicitor-general, signed *W. Garrow* and *S. Shepherd*. The substance of it was, that a warrant may be issued to apprehend a party charged on oath for publishing a libel, either by the secretary of state, a judge, or a justice of the peace.

On May 12th the subject was brought before the House of Lords on a motion from *Earl Grey*. His lordship stated, as the principal topic which he had to discuss, the question whether any justice of the peace may be called upon, by any common informer, to decide at once what is or is not a libel, and upon his sole judgment and authority commit or hold to bail the person accused. The knowledge which he displayed on the subject was very considerable; but depending entirely upon the opinions given by different lawyers, and his comments upon them, it will not allow us to enter into particulars. After he had brought together a degree of cumulative proof which, he contended, was

scarcely to be found in any other instance, against the power assumed by justices of the peace of committing or holding to bail for a libel, his lordship took under his consideration the conduct of the secretary of state, in issuing his circular letter to the lords lieutenants of counties, for the direction of the magistrates in the administration of the law. He held that such a direction to the magistrates, not being a general exhortation to vigilance and care, but a specific instruction as to the way in which they are to construe the law, would have been, even if the law had been clear and undisputed, a high offence against the constitution. The character of this proceeding, therefore, he did not hesitate to call most unconstitutional; and he brought two striking instances to show the danger that might arise from it. In conclusion, Lord Grey moved, "That the case submitted to the law-officers of the crown, &c. be laid before this House."

Lord Ellenborough, after complimenting the noble earl for his very able and elaborate speech, which proved that he had considered this important question in all its bearings, said that he was by no means convinced from any of the authorities he had cited, that the law was different from what he had always considered it to be, namely, that justices of the peace can arrest and hold to bail in cases of libel. He then called to his support some of the gravest and most venerable authorities of the law which spoke expressly and explicitly on the subject; and affirmed that if, from the time of the revolution to the present day,

the

the practice were not sufficient to establish this point, there could be no safe guide for any man in the exercise of his judicial or legal duties.

Lord Erskine assured the House, that during the whole time that he practised at the bar, he never had the least idea that it was competent to a common justice of the peace to arrest before indictment for libel; and he prayed them to remember, that the libel act was a dead letter, if this was held to be law; that any justice of peace might overhaul collections of books in any shop or library throughout the kingdom, and upon his own authority pronounce the sellers or possessors to be criminal, and send them by his warrants to prison.

Viscount Sidmouth said, that when he had the satisfaction of hearing it proclaimed in the House that the measure which he had thought it his duty to adopt was conformable to the opinion of the highest legal authority in the country; when he found it conformable to the opinions of the greatest text-writers on the law, and also to the recorded practice of all the most eminent law servants of the crown; he felt it would be presumptuous in him to attempt to add any weight to this mass of living and dead authority. There was, however, another point on which he should think it a matter of great self-reproach if he could not vindicate himself to their lordships. It seems that he stood before their lordships charged with having used his best endeavours to stop the progress of blasphemy and sedition. To that charge he pleaded guilty; and while he lived should be proud to have such a charge brought against him. He

added in fine, that he was ready to avow all he had done, and would take upon himself all responsibility for his acts, be the consequences what they might.

Earl Grey begged leave to detain the House with a few observations. When he came down to the House, he felt of course considerable distrust as to the correctness of his opinions, knowing that he was to be opposed by the highest legal authorities; but having listened to the noble lords with the utmost attention, he must say that all that fell from them rather strengthened than weakened his own opinions; for he had never in his life heard any thing more jejune and unsatisfactory than the arguments of those learned lords. He called for law, and they gave him authority; he called for deliberate discussion, and they had given him bare assertions.

After some further remarks on this subject, he came to the speech of the noble secretary of state (*Lord Sidmouth*), who, he said, with a tone of great self-satisfaction had taken to himself the credit of stopping the progress of blasphemy and sedition. He supposed that the noble lords on his side of the House were as little friendly to blasphemy and sedition as the noble viscount; but the question was, whether the latter had not overstepped the bounds of law, and endangered the constitution, which he boasted of saving.

The House at length divided, when the Earl's motion was rejected by Non-contents 75; Contents 19: Majority 56.

It was not till the 25th of June that the same subject was moved in the House of Commons by *Sir Samuel*

Samuel Romilly. He began with saying, that he should not offer any apology to the House for bringing under their notice the circular letter of Lord Sidmouth; what he felt himself most disposed to apologise for, was that he had so long delayed in calling the attention of parliament to that extraordinary letter. The Secretary of State, by the letter in question, communicates to the magistrates in all the counties of England and Wales, that by consulting the law officers of the crown, he had ascertained that they had a right to issue warrants for apprehending persons charged upon oath with publishing blasphemous or seditious libels, and to compel them to give bail to answer the charge. The letter itself admits that doubt had been entertained whether the magistrates had such a power; and the minister takes upon himself to solve the doubt, and to declare, upon the authority of the attorney and solicitor general, what the law is. What more dangerous authority was ever assumed by a servant of the crown, than to pretend to interfere with the magistracy by suggesting to them how the discretion which by law is vested in them should be exercised?

After the learned member had forcibly dwelt upon this topic, and had taken a historical view of the political state of the country, he proceeded to examine the legal opinion of the law officers on which Lord Sidmouth's circular was founded. The magistrates would have the power of committing or holding to bail, not only every man who should be charged on oath with having published a blasphemous

or seditious libel, but all such as have been charged with expressions considered as equivalent; for it is well known, that words spoken are punishable equally with publications bearing the same character. Thus by the command of any magistrate, however prejudiced or indiscreet, a person might be held to bail or sent to prison, on the oath of an informer. No newspaper, in any part of the country, could criticise the measures of ministers, or render itself obnoxious to some busy magistrate, without the danger of exposing its author to imprisonment or expense without trial. The tyranny of the reign of Charles II. could not be greater than this. He then entered into the consideration of legal arguments, upon which, however, he would not detain the House long, after the admirable discussion they had received by a noble friend in another place, and which was now in print. Having finished that topic, he concluded with moving "That an humble address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that he will be graciously pleased to give directions that there be laid before this House, a copy of the case upon which the opinion of the attorney and solicitor-general of the date of the 24th of February last was taken."

The *Attorney General* began with saying, that no parliamentary ground had been laid for the adoption of the motion of his hon. and learned friend, nor could he conceive of any which would warrant the House in calling for the production of any case which government might submit to the consideration

sideration of the crown lawyers. He then in strong language disclaimed any purpose of gaining the goodwill of ministers by sacrificing to their interests. No clamour or calumny, he said, should ever restrain him from the declaration of his opinion; and in this case he had no hesitation in stating his deliberate judgment, that a magistrate could legally commit and hold a man to bail for the publication of a libel. He then went through an examination of the principal cases which had been adduced for the contrary opinion; and in applying his doctrine to the power granted to justices of the peace in cases of libel, he said that of course he meant that the justice must see and read the libel, and not decide it to be such on the mere oath of any man. It had further been alleged against the circular letter, that the secretary of state had interfered with the due and regular administration of justice. But in what way could such interference prejudice the ends of justice, when there was no denunciation of persons by name, but only a general recommendation to be vigilant with respect to the progress of an existing evil?

With the exception of the Solicitor-general, who rose in defence of his colleague, the other members spoke in reprobation of Lord Sidmouth's circular letter, and the opinion by which it was

supported. *Sir S. Romilly* in his reply took notice of the circumstance, and observed, that the suffering the question to go thus quietly to a decision, shewed the little value that was set upon cases of importance to the liberty of the subject. The motion was negatived; after which *Sir S. Romilly* moved the following two resolutions.

1. "That it is highly prejudicial to the due administration of justice, for a minister of the crown to interfere with the magistrates of the country in cases in which a discretion is supposed to be by law vested in them, by recommending or suggesting to them how that discretion should be exercised.

2. "That it tends to the subversion of justice, and is a dangerous extension of the prerogative, for a minister of the crown to take upon himself to declare in his official character to the magistracy, what he conceived to be the law of the land; and that such exercise of authority is the more alarming, when the law so declared deeply affects the security of the subject and the liberty of the press, and is promulgated upon no better authority than the opinions of the law officers of the crown."

The Attorney-general having moved the previous question; the House divided, Ayes 49; Noes 157: Majority 108.

CHAPTER VI.

Prince Regent's Message to both Houses, and proceedings in consequence.

PRINCE REGENT'S MESSAGE.

ON the third of June, Lord Sidmouth presented the following message to the House of Lords.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, has given orders that there be laid before the House of Lords, papers containing information respecting the continuance of practices, meetings, and combinations, in different parts of the kingdom, to which, at the commencement of the present session of parliament, his Royal Highness called the attention of the House, and which are still carried on in such a manner, and to such an extent, as are calculated to disturb the public tranquillity, and to endanger the security of the established constitution of these realms.

His Royal Highness recommends to the House of Lords to take these papers into their immediate and serious consideration.

GEORGE P. R.

The message having been read, Lord Sidmouth proposed an address of thanks to the Prince Regent, which was unanimously agreed to.

Lord Sidmouth rose a second time, and after observing that he was not acquainted with any instances on the journals in which a committee was moved for on the same day on which a message had

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been brought down from the throne, he said that the hands of parliament were not to be tied up for want of such a precedent. All they were now called upon to do, was to pledge themselves to an immediate consideration of the subject; with which view he should move, That the papers be referred to a committee of secrecy.

After some conversation among the lords, the motion was agreed to.

Lord Sidmouth then proposed to continue the same persons who composed the former committee, with the substitution of the Earl of Talbot for the Duke of Bedford who was indisposed by ill health; which was agreed to.

Earl Grey said, that as the learned lord on the woolsack had so much business to transact in the court of chancery, he would move that his name should be omitted for the purpose of introducing that of the Earl of Roslyn. The motion was negatived, and the committee as proposed by Lord Sidmouth was adopted.

On June 12th the second report of the secret committee of the House of Lords respecting certain dangerous meetings and combinations was presented to their Lordships by the Earl of Harrowby.

REPORT OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE appointed to take into consideration the several Papers
[F] sealed

sealed up in a Bag, and delivered by command of his royal highness the Prince Regent.

By the lords committees appointed to take into consideration the several Papers sealed up in a Bag, and delivered by command of his royal highness the Prince Regent, and to report to the House; and to whom were referred several other Papers sealed up in a Bag, also delivered by command of his Royal Highness:—

Ordered to report, That the committee have met, and proceeded in the examination of the papers referred to them.

It is their painful duty to report, that these papers afford but too many proofs of the continued existence of a traitorous conspiracy for the overthrow of our established government and constitution, and for the subversion of the existing order of society.

The attempts of the conspirators have indeed hitherto been frustrated by the active exertions of the government, and particularly of the magistrates in different parts of the country, in execution both of the general laws provided for the maintenance of the public tranquillity, and of the special powers recently given by parliament for that purpose; but the information contained in the papers referred to the committee, leaves no doubt in their minds, that the same wicked and desperate designs are still actively pursued. The information from which they have drawn this painful conclusion, appears to have been collected from many various sources often unconnected with and unknown to each other; but

it is uniform in its general result, and it is corroborated by a striking correspondence in many minute particulars.

This intelligence must be considered as resting in many of its parts upon the depositions and communications of persons who either are themselves more or less implicated in these criminal transactions, or who have apparently engaged in them, but with the view of obtaining information, and imparting it to the magistrates or to the secretary of state.

The testimony of persons of both these descriptions must always be in some degree questionable; and your committee have seen reason to apprehend that the language and conduct of some of the latter may, in some instances, have had the effect of encouraging those designs, which it was intended they should only be the instruments of detecting. After making, however, to the best of their judgment, all due allowance for these circumstances, the committee are fully persuaded that the following is a correct and not exaggerated statement of the result of the information which has been brought under their view.

The Papers relate almost exclusively to the principal manufacturing districts in some of the midland and northern counties of England; and although the disaffected in the country appear still to be looking to the metropolis with the hope of assistance and direction, it is to the parts of the country above referred to that the more recent projects of insurrection seem to have been confined.

The committee think it their duty here to remark, that although in

in many of these districts particular causes of distress have no doubt operated to expose the minds of the labouring classes of the community to irritation and perversion, yet they are persuaded that this distress must for the most part be considered rather as the instrument than as the cause of disaffection. In some of the places where these practices have prevailed, they believe the want of employment to have been less felt than in many other parts of the kingdom; while in other places, where the pressure has been perhaps most grievous, it has certainly been sustained with a spirit of patience, loyalty, and good order, which cannot be too highly commended. And your committee cannot refrain from expressing their opinion, that it is chiefly by the means pointed out in the report of the former committee, by the widely extended circulation of seditious and blasphemous publications, and by the effect of inflammatory discourses continually renewed, that this spirit has been principally excited and diffused. By these the attachment to our established government and constitution, and the respect for law, morality, and religion, have gradually been weakened among those whose situations most exposed them to this destructive influence; and it is thus that their minds have been prepared for the adoption of designs and measures no less injurious to their own interests and happiness than to those of every other class of his majesty's subjects.

Since the period of the former report, Manchester and its neighbourhood have (as far as your

committee has seen) been the only places where meetings have been convened and assembled sufficiently numerous to create immediate apprehensions for the public tranquillity. At a meeting which was convened there on the 3rd of March for the purpose of petitioning against the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act, and where several thousand persons appear to have been assembled, it was proposed and agreed to that another meeting should be held on the following Monday, viz. the 10th of March, with the professed intention that ten out of every twenty persons who should attend it should proceed to London with a petition to his royal highness the Prince Regent.

The interval was employed in almost daily meetings of the disaffected, which were numerously attended. The real intentions of the leaders were there developed to their followers in speeches of the most undisguised violence. One of them avowed that he was a republican and a leveller, and would never give up the cause till a republican form of government was established. The people were told by others, that if their petition was rejected, they must force it: that the large towns in Yorkshire were adopting the same plan, and would meet them on the road, or at least march at the same time to London: that there was reason to believe that the Scotch were then on their march: that they should be one hundred thousand strong, when joined by the people of other manufacturing places upon the road; and that it would be impossible for the army or anything else to resist them.

These speakers appear in a few instances to have been checked by some of their associates, but their sentiments were for the most part received with strong marks of applause and concurrence.

Arrangements for the march were also pointed out at these meetings. It was recommended to those who intended to join in it to provide themselves with blankets, shoes, and knapsacks, as well as with money and food. Those who remained to work were to assist with their subscriptions. Every ten men were to choose one for a leader; and one was to be set over every hundred. Strong intimations were also given of the propriety and necessity of their providing themselves with arms; but these do not appear to have been acted upon, except perhaps in a few instances.

On the 10th of March the proposed meeting took place, to the amount, as is supposed, of from 10,000 to 12,000 persons at the least. Although some of their leaders had been previously arrested, and others were apprehended on the spot, the purpose was not abandoned; and large numbers of these deluded people marched off towards London.

A considerable body of them was stopped on the road to Stockport: some hundreds are stated to have passed through Leek: and one party proceeded as far as Ashbourne; but the activity of the magistrates in dispersing the meeting, and in stopping the progress of these bodies, effectually prevented the execution of a design, which could not probably have failed to disturb the peace of the counties through which so nu-

merous an assemblage was to have passed; and which, if prosecuted to its full extent, must have led to consequences highly dangerous to the public tranquillity.

The discomfiture of this attempt does not, however, appear to have materially discouraged those who had planned it: their measures were uninterruptedly pursued. Within a very short time after this failure, fresh meetings were held in smaller numbers; they were composed, either wholly or in part, of delegates from the neighbourhood of Manchester, from the borders of Derbyshire, and from the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire. At some of these meetings reports were made of the quantity of pikes, or firelocks, and of bullets which could be provided for the intended rising. Communications were held about this time with Nottingham, Sheffield, and Birmingham, by delegates, who were to give intelligence of the plans in contemplation, to excite the people of those places to similar attempts, and to ascertain the state of preparation to which they had advanced. In these proceedings the pretence of parliamentary reform appears to have been almost wholly discarded; they evidently point to nothing short of revolution; and it affords a dreadful proof of the extent to which the minds of many of those who attended these meetings have been inflamed and corrupted, that in public speeches the necessity of doing away with, or disposing of (as they term it), the persons most obnoxious to them, has often been openly and unreservedly announced; and that on one occasion it is stated to have been

been proposed, that Manchester should be made a Moscow, for the purpose of strengthening their cause, by throwing numbers of people out of employment.

It was on the night of the 30th of March that a general insurrection was intended to have commenced at Manchester. The magistrates were to be seized; the prisoners were to be liberated; the soldiers were either to be surprised in their barracks, or a certain number of factories were to be set on fire, for the purpose of drawing the soldiers out of their barracks, of which a party stationed near them for that object were then to take possession with the view of seizing the magazine.

The signal for the commencement of these proceedings was to be, the firing of a rocket or rockets; and hopes were held out that 2,000 or 3,000 men would be sufficient to accomplish the first object, and that the insurgents would be 50,000 strong in the morning.

At this period, and in other parts of these proceedings, there are traces of an intention to issue proclamations, declaring the king's subjects absolved from their allegiance, and denouncing death against all opposers; but the committee have not found any evidence of the actual preparation of such proclamations.

This atrocious conspiracy was detected by the vigilance of the magistrates, and defeated by the apprehension and confinement of some of the ringleaders a few days before the period fixed for its execution. The timely prevention of this desperate attempt appears to have given a considerable check

to the proceedings of the disaffected in that quarter; and all the subsequent intelligence which the committee has seen from thence continues to be of a more favourable character.

During part of the month of April an intermission appears indeed to have taken place generally, at least of the more open proceedings. Public meetings in large bodies could no longer be convened, except under the regulations of the recent act of parliament. Numerous meetings of societies have been less frequently held in public-houses. In some districts clubs have been dissolved; in others their meetings have been suspended, or have been held in private houses, or in places remote from observation. The necessity of greater caution has been felt and inculcated; communications by writing have been discountenanced; the concealment of the names of leading persons has been recommended; and it has been thought better that a few persons only should be intrusted with their plans, and should give notice to the different delegates to have their partizans in readiness to act when required and as directed. These delegates appointed from various places have met in small numbers, and thus kept up a general but verbal correspondence among the disaffected.

Towards the end of April, and during the month of May, this correspondence appears to have been carried on with increased activity. As early as the fifth of that month a meeting is stated to have been held in one of the principal towns of the west riding of Yorkshire, and to have been attended

tended by persons calling themselves delegates from other principal towns of that district; and also from Leicester, from Birmingham, and from Nottingham. At this meeting reports were made by the different delegates of the strength which could be collected from the districts which they represented. The numbers were stated as very large; but the committee are well aware of the exaggeration to be expected in such cases. It was about this time that the period for another general rising appears to have been fixed for as early a day as possible after the discussion of an expected motion for reform in Parliament. Nottingham appears to have been intended as the headquarters upon which a part of the insurgents were to march in the first instance. They were expected to be joined there, and on their march towards London, by other bodies with such arms as they might have already provided, or might procure by force from private houses, or from the different depôts or barracks of which the attack was proposed.

At various subsequent meetings at different places, reports are stated to have been made of a great increase of numbers, so great that it was said on one occasion that they were obliged daily to extend their divisions, and enlarge their committee.

Concurrent information from many of the quarters from whence these delegates were said to be deputed, confirms the expectation of a general rising about the time above mentioned, and states its subsequent postponement to the ninth or tenth of June, for which various reasons were assigned.

The latest intelligence from those quarters had made it highly probable that the same causes which have hitherto thwarted the execution of these desperate designs, viz. the vigilance of government—the great activity and intelligence of the magistrates—the ready assistance afforded under their orders by the regular troops and yeomanry—the prompt and efficient arrangements of the officers entrusted with that service—the knowledge which has from time to time been obtained of the plans of the disaffected, and the consequent arrest and confinement of the leading agitators, would occasion a still further postponement of their atrocious plans. Subsequent intelligence leaves no doubt that the plan, in its full extent, has for the present been frustrated; but the correctness of the information which had previously been obtained has been confirmed by the recent appearance of bodies of men in arms at the precise period which is stated to have been fixed upon, and particularly in one of the districts, which had latterly been represented as determined to act without waiting for a general insurrection.

The committee think it highly important to state, that the reports received from many of the most active magistrates, and from persons whose stations, both civil and military, have enabled them to collect the most extensive information, and to form the most accurate judgment as to the state of the country, concur in attributing in a very considerable degree the disappointment of the attempts already made, and the hopes of continued tranquillity, to the

the actual exercise of the powers which parliament has entrusted to the executive government, and to the effect of the known existence of such powers ready to be called into action when necessity requires it,—and in representing the danger which would threaten the country were those powers to be withdrawn at the present moment. And the committee feel that they should ill discharge the trust reposed in them if they did not declare their own entire agreement in this opinion. With the fullest confidence in the general loyalty and good disposition, not only of those portions of the kingdom which have hitherto remained in a great degree untainted, but of by far the most considerable part of those very districts which are the chief scenes of the operations of the disaffected—a confidence which very recent experience has satisfactorily confirmed—they cannot refrain from submitting to your lordships, as the result of all the information they have received, that the time is not yet arrived when the maintenance of the public tranquillity, and the protection of the lives and properties of his majesty's subjects, can be allowed to rest upon the ordinary powers of the law.

The order of the day for continuing the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act being read on the 16th of June in the House of Lords, *Lord Sidmouth* rose, and after mentioning that the ministers of the crown had been disappointed in their hope of closing the operation of the bill with the session of parliament, and had thought it necessary to propose a new enquiry, he went over the several facts

which had been reported to the committee, and had induced them to lay their discoveries before the House. Having descanted upon the accumulated proofs that there still subsisted very dangerous designs in different parts of the country, he said, that all which he asked was the adoption of the measure now proposed, if their lordships would agree with him in thinking it essential for the preservation of the constitution. In those places where the schemes of the conspirators had been most advanced, the act had been put in execution, and the leaders were in custody, by which means their atrocious designs were defeated; and government had received information from Manchester and other places, that they should greatly deplore the withdrawing of these powers at the time they were most wanted. His lordship concluded with moving, that the bill for continuing the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act be now read a second time,

Lord Erskine asked, What were the causes of that disturbed state of the country which was the subject of the first report, and of the renewed one now before them? The causes were manifest in the universal distresses of all classes of people from the stagnation of trade and manufactures, increased and embittered by a devouring revenue; and in the direction of the public mind under the pressure of such calamities, because the people in their turns, when looking to the removal of such distresses, examined the cause of them, which they attributed to their not having that share in the public councils which they thought themselves

themselves entitled to in the theory of the constitution. They might, said his lordship, be mistaken in this reasoning, but it was unjust to brand it as hostile to the government, when it had been over and over again maintained in parliament by the most illustrious statesmen, that a reform in the representation was the only possible security for our invaluable constitution. This alone had been the object of every one of the numerous meetings which had so much alarmed his majesty's ministers, and which they had taken such violent and dangerous measures to suppress.

Speaking of the suspension of the Habeas Corpus, his lordship said, the House might depend upon it, and he spoke from an experience which scarcely ever belonged to any other man, that the administration of justice, instead of being strengthened by it, was sure to suffer in the extreme from the odium attaching even upon just prosecutions; and government might lay its account with being completely foiled in every attempt to produce order and obedience by judicial trials, as long as the Habeas Corpus Act remained suspended, and other measures of distrust and coercion were in force against the whole mass of the people.

Lord Redesdale, in his speech in favour of ministers, observed that a great deal had been said about spies and informers, and the infamy of employing such characters. But he would ask, whether in the history of the whole world an instance of the detection of a conspiracy of this kind could be found but by such means. It was

really ridiculous to decry the employment of such instruments under such circumstances. That practice was even more necessary now than on any former occasion, especially in 1793, for the secrecy and caution of the conspirators were so much greater.

Earl Grey, touching upon the argument in his speech on the opposite side of the question, said that he had thought that this practice had been condemned by orators and statesmen, and by great men of every age and nation; that it was a practice sanctioned only by the most despotic governments; that it poisoned the sources of confidence between man and man; and was destructive of domestic happiness and individual security. He regarded the employment of such engines as the great distinction between a free and a despotic government; but if these men, sent to penetrate into the designs of others, were to impel them to the commission of crimes, what must be the state of society to sanction such a proceeding? He was himself persuaded that these disturbances might have been put down without the use of any such means; and he lamented to see in that House, as well as in the other, and in the whole community, a sort of apathy and disregard of the conduct of ministers, and a disposition to fly to force as a cure for those evils for which the law had appropriated milder and more efficacious remedies.

The *Earl of Liverpool* said, that the real question was, whether there did not exist, in the judgment of that House, an organized conspiracy for overturning the government. In fact, it was not confined

confined to one town, one county, or one district. It pervaded seven or eight counties; and the disaffected were acting by associations, by correspondence, and by sending delegates from one meeting to another. With respect to the employment of spies, he affirmed, that whatever might be the language of orators or writers, the fact was, that in practice this weapon had always been employed. He allowed that considerable difficulty existed in the application of this principle; but it was almost impossible, without such means, to secure the information necessary for the public tranquillity. He then resorted to the peculiar character of the present disturbances, and concluded with calling upon their lordships, in the name of eternal peace, of good order, and of security and liberty, to adopt the proposed measure.

Some further observations were made by different lords, which it is unnecessary here to repeat. The question being at length called for, the result was, for the second reading of the bill,

Contents, present . . .	109
Proxies	81

Total . . .	190
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Non-contents, present .	27
Proxies	23

Total . . .	50
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Majority	140
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On June 19th, the third reading of this bill was called for in the House of Lords. Several peers took the occasion of giving their sentiments on the subject, but nothing occurred to render their

observations particularly remarkable. The third reading was carried by

Contents, present . . .	73
Proxies	68

	141
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Non-contents, present .	20
Proxies	17

	37
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Majority	104
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On June 5th, *Lord Castlereagh* presented to the House of Commons a message relative to seditious meetings, expressed in the same terms as that sent to the House of Lords, with a bag of papers accompanying it. His lordship said, that he should now confine himself to a motion of thanks to the Prince Regent, assuring him, that the House would take the papers into their immediate and serious consideration. After this motion was disposed of, he should submit that the papers should be referred to a select committee, to be confined to the same persons as were members of the last, except the late attorney-general who had ceased to be a member of that House; and in his stead he would propose the present solicitor-general.

Lord Castlereagh's first motion being agreed to, he next moved for referring the papers to a committee. Lord Folkestone moved, by way of amendment, "to examine and arrange the same, and to report the substance thereof to the House," which was negatived. It was then ordered that a committee of secrecy, consisting of 21 members, be appointed; after which

which Lord Castlereagh moved “That such members as were of the committee of secrecy appointed on the 5th of February last, and who are now members of this House, be members of the said committee.” *Sir J. Newport* objected to the proposal, and by way of amendment gave a nomination almost entirely new. A discussion of some length followed, after which the House divided; For the original Motion 126, For the Amendment 66 : Majority 60. The main question was then agreed to, and the solicitor-general was added to the committee.

Lord Folkestone then moved, “That it be an instruction to the said committee that they enquire particularly into the origin, character, and extent of the disaffection supposed to exist in the country, &c.” which was negatived. Another motion was offered by the same noble lord, which was, to make it an instruction to the said committee that they enquire into the particular case of every person detained under the provisions of an act passed in the present session of parliament, &c. ; which was also negatived.

The Second Report from the Committee of Secrecy of the House of Commons was to the following effect.

In forming an opinion on the present internal situation of the country, your committee could not fail to bear in mind the information laid before them, at an early part of the session, upon which their first report was founded.

The papers now communicated to the committee, continue the narrative of the proceedings of

the disaffected in the counties before referred to, viz. Lancashire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire (to which, part of Yorkshire and the towns of Birmingham and Stockport, must now be added), from the period of that report down to the present time.

Your committee find in these papers, not only a complete corroboration of the justness of the apprehensions, which they then expressed, but proofs, equally decisive of the continuance of the same machinations, and designs, breaking out into fresh acts of violence and insurrection, up to the present moment.

Your committee stated in their former report, that “even where petitioning was recommended, it was proposed to be conducted in such a manner, by an immense number of delegates, attending in London at the same time, in several parties, attached to each petition, as might induce an effort to obtain by force whatever they demanded ; and that a general idea seemed prevalent, that some fixed day, at no very great distance, was to be appointed for a general rising.”

The first attention of your committee has been directed to the proceedings of the public meeting held early in March, in the town of Manchester. At that meeting, which consisted of persons assembled from various towns and populous villages in the vicinity of Manchester, as well as of the inhabitants of Manchester itself, it was proposed by the same leaders who had previously attracted the notice of your committee, that the petitioners should assemble,
at

at the same place, on Monday, the 10th of that month, prepared to set out on a march to London, to present their petition themselves to the Prince Regent in person; that they should form themselves into parties of ten each (which arrangement was proposed with the professed view of not transgressing the law); and that they should supply themselves with provisions for the march, and with blankets for the purpose of sleeping on the ground.

At many other meetings previous to the 10th, which, though comparatively private, were yet numerous attended, it was represented to them, by their orators, that they would be surrounded by the police and the military, and that they would be an easy prey if they proceeded without arms for their protection. They were assured, however, that their numbers, which, in the course of their progress, would amount to not less than 100,000, would make it impossible ultimately to resist them. It was stated that all the large towns in Yorkshire were adopting the same plan, that the Scotch were actually on their march, and that if the petitioners could once reach Nottingham, or Birmingham, the business would be done. They were advised to choose leaders over each subdivision of tens, fifties, and hundreds, and to appoint a treasurer to receive contributions, which were actually made in a great number of small sums, out of which fund they were taught to expect that each man would be supplied with a daily allowance.

A petition was accordingly pre-

pared, with a copy of which every tenth man was furnished; and which concluded by stating to his Royal Highness, that, without the change which they demanded, "they could neither support him, nor themselves;" and they were told, that if their petition was rejected, they must demand it; if still rejected, they must force it, and say they would be righted. It appears, that some of the persons apprehended, were fully prepared to act up to these instructions; though it is to be presumed, that many of them had no very definite idea of the way in which their services were to be employed; and that even among their leaders, some of the more moderate reckoned rather upon intimidation, than upon the actual employment of force. At one of those more private meetings, however, which preceded the general assembly, one of those persons, who appeared to have most influence, avowed himself a republican and leveller; and professed his determination never to give up till they had established a republican government: the examples of the insurrection in the reign of Richard 2nd, and of the rebellion in Ireland in 1798, were held out, as objects of imitation; and the most violent of such declarations was generally received with the strongest marks of applause.

In consequence of these preparations, the public meeting proposed took place at the time appointed; and was attended by probably near 12,000 persons: many of these proceeded to the ground in regular order, with knapsacks on their backs; and notwithstanding the assembly was dispersed

dispersed by the military, acting under the orders of the magistrates, and the principal leaders were apprehended, under warrants from the secretary of state, a considerable number actually marched off on their way to London; many were intercepted before they reached Stockport, but several found their way as far as Ashbourne.

The act for enabling his majesty to detain suspected persons had now passed; most of those, who had rendered themselves most conspicuous in exciting disaffection in this part of the country, had either been apprehended, or had secreted themselves; and all hopes were precluded of any immediate result from the assemblage which had been so long concerted; yet it appears to your committee, from a variety of concurrent testimony, on which they rely, that the previous organization had been extended so widely, and the expectation of ultimate success had been so confidently entertained, that these circumstances produced no other effect on the great body of the discontented, than to delay the explosion, which had so long been meditated; to occasion the discontinuance of the more open meetings of the association; and to call forth the exertions of new leaders, who were determined (in their own phrase) to "re-organize the party." Meetings were accordingly held in several of the townships in the neighbourhood of Manchester, between the 10th and 25th of March, with more privacy, but under the established system of delegation, at which only the deputies from the disaf-

affected places were present; and at which it was resolved to promote a general rising at Manchester, on Sunday the 30th of March, or the following day. A meeting was appointed for the leaders at Ardwick bridge, close to Manchester, on the Friday before that day; where they expected to receive information from Birmingham, Sheffield, and other places, with which they were in communication; having previously learnt from an emissary, who had visited Huddersfield and Leeds, that the disaffected in that part of the country were all ready to begin at any time, and were preparing arms for the purpose. The design was, to assemble as many as could be collected, in the night, at Manchester; to attack the barracks, the police office, the prison, the houses of magistrates and constables, and the banks, in separate parties; and to set fire to the factories in the town. It was even declared by one of the conspirators, that this last atrocity was intended for the purpose of increasing the prevalent distress, in the hope of thereby adding to the numbers of the discontented, by throwing the workmen out of employment. It was calculated that two or three thousand men would be enough to commence these operations, as they reckoned upon being joined by 50,000 at the dawn of day. A proclamation was said to be prepared, in order to be produced on this occasion, justifying the revolt, and absolving the insurgents from their allegiance. Expectations were held out, that a general insurrection would take place, at the same time, in different parts of the

the counties of Lancaster, York, Warwick, Leicester, Nottingham, Chester and Stafford; and though some of these, particularly the two latter counties, may have been included without any sufficient ground, your committee see just reason to apprehend, that a successful insurrection at Manchester would have been followed by partial risings, to an alarming amount, in each of the other counties. Some preparations were made for providing ammunition, with a view to the arms, which it was intended to seize. The execution of this plan was defeated by the vigilance of the magistrates, who being apprized of what was in agitation, made a communication to the secretary of state, by whom warrants were immediately issued, and the ringleaders, assembled at Hardwick bridge, were consequently seized on the 28th. The magistrates of Manchester thereupon published an address to the inhabitants, announcing the danger, and calling upon the householders to be sworn as special constables, and to assist in preserving the peace of the town. This plan of the disaffected being thus discovered, and deranged, they became more wary and secret in their proceedings; but in the moment of disappointment, declarations were made, that it would be impossible to prevent the rising for a month longer. The assassination of persons most obnoxious to their resentment was suggested by some of the most desperate of the conspirators; an attack was made upon the house of one of the magistrates; the life of another was threatened; and a pistol was fired into the house

of a gentleman, who was acting as a special constable. Shortly after this period, it appears to have been discussed, whether it would not be more prudent to discontinue the appointment of delegates, and to rely only upon one man in each town, who might call the disaffected together a short time before the intended insurrection, and seize on horses, preparatory to the attack on Manchester. But notwithstanding this proposition, the same system of connected operation by means of delegates was indefatigably persevered in.

Delegates from Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Derby, Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, Huddersfield, and other places in the disturbed part of the country, either constantly or occasionally attended these meetings. The numbers assembled were not large, but the activity was unceasing; emissaries were continually passing from one of those places to another, to compare their accounts of the state of the public mind; to foment the irritation among the disaffected; and to combine some general plan of simultaneous, or connected insurrection; the object of which was, after consolidating a sufficient force, to march upon London, and there to overturn the existing government, and to establish a republic. The same designs were continued of attacking the barracks, and depôts, in different parts of the country (one of which was particularly reconnoitered with that view); of plundering the houses of noblemen and gentlemen, where arms were supposed to be lodged; of seizing the magistrates, and keeping them as hostages, and as authorities for
levying

levying contributions on the country; of disarming the soldiers by night, in their quarters, or seducing them from their duty; and of providing arms for themselves, partly by these seizures, and partly by an easy method of forming pike heads out of common tools and utensils.

It appears to your committee, that the utmost confidence prevailed among the delegates, as to the ultimate attainment of their object; that the successive arrests of several of the principal leaders, though they occasioned momentary disappointment, did not extinguish the spirit of insurrection, or the hopes of success, in the parts of the country above mentioned; and the utmost impatience was manifested at the delays which had taken place in fixing the day for the general rising. This, after several postponements, was appointed for the Monday in Whitsun week, and was afterwards again postponed to the 9th of June, which was thought more favourable for a midnight insurrection, as the moon would then be in the wane. Notice of this last appointment had been so widely circulated, that it became almost of public notoriety; which, while it awakened the attention of those whose duty it was to preserve the public peace, did not appear to derange the preparations of those who were disposed to disturb it. Even where the planners of the insurrection suggested a farther delay, they found it impossible to restrain the impatience which they had excited among their followers, who had forsaken their ordinary habits of industry, and who must either proceed to

the immediate attainment of their object, or for the present relinquish it, and return to their accustomed occupations. On the 28th of May a meeting of delegates in the neighbourhood of Sheffield was dispersed, and some of the parties were apprehended; and on the 6th of June, several persons described to be delegates, (and believed by your committee to be such), who were assembled at another place in the same neighbourhood, were apprehended by the magistrates of the riding, assisted by the military; and the final arrangement of the plan, which was there to be settled, was thus happily frustrated. It was confidently expected, that these arrests would disconcert whatever measures were in preparation, and they appear to have had that effect in the immediate vicinity of Sheffield; but the spirit which had been excited could not be wholly suppressed. In the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, in the night of the 8th instant, several houses were forcibly entered and plundered of arms. A considerable body of armed men were approaching the town, when a small patrol of yeomanry cavalry, attended by a peace officer, fell in with them, and was received with the discharge of several shot, by which one of their troop horses was wounded. The patrol having ascertained, that they were too few to oppose such numbers, thought it prudent to retreat, when several shots were fired after them without effect. On returning with an additional force to the spot, they found that the whole of the insurgents had disappeared; but guns fired as signals, in different

ent directions, and lights shown on the heights throughout the country, sufficiently proved the extent of the confederacy, and the concert with which it was organized. In some populous villages of Derbyshire, a more open insurrection took place on the 9th of June. A delegate from this part of the country had attended a previous meeting at Nottingham, and an active emissary from thence had joined them in the course of the night. The insurrection began, according to the general plan proposed, with attacks upon houses, for the purpose of procuring arms ; in one of which, a servant was wantonly shot ; about 200 insurgents were soon assembled, mostly armed either with pikes or with fire-arms, and began their march towards Nottingham, in expectation of increasing their numbers as they went, and of finding that place in full insurrection, and prepared to support them. They were however intercepted by detachments of cavalry (under the orders of active and intelligent magistrates), which came up with them in different directions, and totally dispersed them. Between 50 and 60 were taken and lodged in the different gaols ; many fire-arms and pikes were taken at the same time, and a quantity of ammunition was found upon the persons of the prisoners.

Your committee have thus stated the prominent points of the information, which has been laid before them, particularly as affecting the manufacturing districts in the Northern and Midland counties, and which has been substantiated, in almost every particular, by depositions on oath, taken be-

fore magistrates. The character of the danger remains the same as was described in the former report. It arises from the indefatigable exertions of persons in the lower ranks of life, or but little above them, of some popular talents, inflaming and aggravating the actual distress of a numerous manufacturing population, by exciting hopes of an immediate remedy to all their sufferings from a reform in parliament, and preparing them (in despair of attaining that object) to attempt by force the total subversion of the established constitution of government.

Your committee stated, in their former report, that the mode of organization, practised with such mischievous success in the populous districts, had been in very many instances conducted under the cover of associations, called Hampden Clubs, formed for the ostensible purpose of procuring a reform in parliament ; and they now find that in many instances, where the open meetings of those societies have been discontinued, several of the members of them have assembled more privately, and been the principal leaders in the projected combinations.

In their former report they did not think it necessary to advert to that atrocious system of combination, outrage, and hired assassination, which has prevailed in some of the midland counties, under the name of Luddism ; both because the trials of persons, charged with those crimes, were then known to be depending ; and because the system itself did not then distinctly appear to your committee to have any immediate application

cation to political purposes. But they have since found reason to believe, that those who are concerned in instigating the people to insurrection, have availed themselves of this powerful engine for the more extended purposes of political innovation.

Upon the whole, your committee have been anxious neither to exaggerate, nor extenuate, the nature and extent of the danger. They have not been insensible to the jealousy, with which the testimony of persons, originally implicated in the designs of the conspirators, or even of persons who never having engaged in those designs, have attended their meetings, in order to discover and report their proceedings, ought to be received; but the facts stated by your committee, rest not only upon confirmatory evidence, but on distinct, substantive, and satisfactory testimony; and although your committee have seen reason to apprehend, that the language and conduct of some persons from whom information has been derived, may in some instances, have had the effect of encouraging those designs, which it was intended they should only be the instruments of detecting; yet it is perfectly clear to your committee, that before any such encouragement could have been given, the plan of a simultaneous insurrection, in different parts of the country, had been actually concerted, and its execution fully determined on.

Your committee have the satisfaction to continue to believe, as they have before stated, that the danger, which they have described, is to be found only among the

lower order of the manufacturing population, in particular parts of the country, many of whom are labouring under considerable privations, from the low rate of wages, and the increasing price of the necessaries of life; though your committee cannot but remark that the most active and determined insurgents are in many instances to be found amongst those, whose earnings, even in the present state of the manufactures, would enable them to support their families in comfort. They find that of the promoters of these commotions, many have either left the country, or are prevented from prosecuting their designs. The disaffected appear to want leaders to conduct such enterprises as they have conceived; are frequently disconcerted by jealousy and distrust of each other, and by the consciousness that their plans are watched; and by the arrests of the ringleaders. Great as the numbers probably are, among whom disaffection, to an alarming extent, has made considerable progress, fomented at first by popular harangues, and still by the more powerful and general excitement of seditious publications, your committee are fully aware, that the number of those, who are now prepared to take the lead in any project of open insurrection, is not to be estimated by the exaggerated reports of their delegates. Though they have been all along taught to look to London for countenance and support, though some of their own immediate emissaries have, from time to time, affected to bring them hopes of encouragement from that quarter, in case

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of success ; and though it has been stated to your committee, that a delegate from the country has recently been attending a meeting of delegates in London ; no specific information has been laid before your committee of the existence of any body of men, associated in the metropolis, with whom the disaffected in the country appear to be acting in concert, or to hold communications. Their hopes arise from their own numbers, which if they could be excited to simultaneous movement, would distract their opponents, and would procure the means for carrying their utmost designs into execution. It is hoped, by them, that the timid and irresolute would thus be encouraged to stand forward ; and they flatter themselves, that efficient leaders would not be wanting to put themselves at the head of a successful insurrection.

Your committee cannot contemplate what has passed in the country, even since the date of their former Report, without the most serious apprehension. During this period, the precautionary measures adopted by Parliament have been in force ; many of the most active promoters of public disturbance have been apprehended ; the immediate projects of the disaffected have been discovered and deranged ; yet nothing has deterred them from a steady pursuit of their ultimate object. Though hitherto checked, the least advance towards the attainment of that object could not but be attended with the utmost hazard to the lives and properties of his Majesty's subjects.

In the late insurrection on the
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borders of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, the mass of the population, through which the insurgents passed, evinced the utmost abhorrence of their designs and projects.—In other instances, where the inhabitants have been called upon to aid the civil power, that call has been answered with alacrity and zeal. Such conduct increases the claim of the peaceable and loyal inhabitants of the disturbed parts of the country to the most efficient protection.

Your committee find that it is the concurrent opinion of many of those entrusted with the preservation of the peace, and best acquainted with the state of the disturbed districts, as well as the admission of the disaffected themselves, that the suppression of the attempts at insurrection hitherto made, may, in a great degree, be ascribed to the existence of the extraordinary powers entrusted by Parliament to the executive government, even in cases where it has not been found necessary to call them into action ; and that the tranquillity of the country would be put to hazard, if those powers were now withdrawn. In this opinion your committee fully concur ; and, confidently as they rely on the loyalty and good disposition of the great body of his Majesty's subjects, (even in those parts of the country in which the spirit of disaffection has shown itself in the most formidable shape) they cannot but express their conviction, that it is not yet safe to rely entirely, for the preservation of the public tranquillity, upon the ordinary powers of the law.

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On

On June 23d, the order of the day for the first reading of the bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus being read in the House of Commons, *Lord Castlereagh* rose, and began by protesting against the inference which had been drawn, that a bill of this kind was a libel on the whole country, and preferring a bill of indictment against the people of England. The adoption of such a measure might alarm those who know themselves to be guilty of treasonable designs; but he believed the loyal and peaceable part of the community would be grateful for the passing of the bill, which they would regard as a measure of protection. He then argued in opposition to those who were of opinion, that supposing treasonable designs to exist, those by whom they were entertained were too insignificant to merit the serious attention of parliament. Not only had additional conspiracies been discovered, but, in the late inquiry, the former conspiracies had been confirmed. This circumstance led him to consider at some length the case of *Oliver*, who was supposed to be the moving cause of all; and he endeavoured to shew that his exertions had materially contributed to prevent the intended explosion of June 9th. He said, in fine, that the measure now proposed to be renewed had already rendered considerable service. In the judgment of nearly all the magistrates it had checked insurrection, and had been more effective than any of the other measures adopted by parliament.

Among the speakers on the op-

posite side of the question, perhaps the most forcible was *Sir Samuel Romilly*. He said, that this was a measure of much greater importance even than that which the House had before adopted. They were then called upon to suspend the Habeas Corpus only for four months, while parliament was sitting, and might watch in what manner the extraordinary powers given to government were exercised; now they were required, just before they separated, to commit this arbitrary power into the hands of ministers for an indefinite period of time, the duration of which was to depend entirely upon the pleasure of the crown. The noble lord had talked of circumstances of augmented danger; if such were the case, what did it prove, except that not only was the suspension bill inefficient, but that it had increased the evil it was intended to prevent. There was another evil no less grievous. It was now for the first time avowed that spies were in the regular pay of ministers—spies who were the promoters and the instigators of the crimes which they afterwards denounced. Surely here was enough to excite discontent and disgust through the House and the nation. Speaking afterwards of the dangerous power entrusted to ministers in the confidence that they would not abuse it, he said, I care not in whose hands that power may be placed. It is one of the melancholy signs of the times, that while, day after day, encroachments are making on public liberty, the answer to every complaint is, that the power which was given would be placed in gentle hands

hands. Was there ever any despotic government which did not claim the same right of exercising power on this ground? I cannot (said he) reconcile myself to so light a way of speaking of the Constitution, as to make the suspension of its most valuable privileges a matter of indifference, because certain persons, of whom a favourable opinion is entertained, are to be invested with the arbitrary authority which must be the consequence of that suspension.

On a division of the House, the numbers for the first reading were, Ayes 276, Noes 111; Majority 165.

June 24th, the numbers were so much reduced by defections on both sides, that the motion for the second reading of the bill was carried by 80 against 30.

The order of the day for the committal of the bill being read on June 26th, *Sir J. Newport* rose to propose a clause, "that it be an injunction to the committee to limit the duration of the bill till the 1st of December next." *Lord Castlereagh* said that the motion was altogether unnecessary, because it was competent to the committee to fix the duration of the bill at any period it thought proper. But, waving the point of form, he should object to the motion upon principle; for if the state of the country should be such as to require the further continuance of the act at the period stated in the motion, he did not know but that the calling together gentlemen to attend Parliament from the districts in which their

influence would be so usefully exerted, might be a greater evil than the cessation of the act itself.

The amendment was negatived, and the House went into the committee. *Sir J. Newport* then moved, that the duration of the bill should be limited to the 1st of the ensuing December. The committee then divided, when there appeared, For the amendment 45; Against it 78.

Mr. Douglas objected to the extension of the bill to Scotland, and moved the omission of the clause by which that country was included in its operation. The House dividing on the question, it was determined that it should be continued, by 129 to 48.

June 27th was the day appointed for the third reading of the bill. Several speakers on both parties took a share in the debate, but scarcely any thing remained except recapitulation of the several events which had taken place in the former part of the year. On the division, the reading was carried by 195 to 65. An amendment was afterwards proposed by *Mr. S. Wortley*, with the approbation of *Lord Castlereagh*, to leave out the words "six weeks after the meeting of parliament," and insert as the term of the bill the 1st of March 1818. On this a further amendment was proposed by *Mr. Wynne* to substitute the 25th of December, 1817. The House divided on the question, "that the 1st of March do stand part of the bill," which was decided by Ayes 152, Noes 50. The bill was then passed.

CHAPTER VII.

The Budget.

ON June 20th, the House having resolved itself into a committee, the *Chancellor of the Exchequer* rose, and said that it would not be necessary for him to trouble the committee at any very great length. He was of this opinion because, in the first place, he had reason to hope that the measures which he should recommend were not such as were likely to call forth much opposition; and, in the next place, the House came to the subject with more information respecting it than they usually possessed previously to the opening of the budget. In consequence of the recommendation made to them in the speech from the throne at the commencement of the session, one of the earliest proceedings of the House had been to appoint a committee to inquire into the revenue and expenditure of the country; the reports made by which would enable him to spare those whom he had the honour to address, the trouble of listening to many dry statements of accounts. The consolidation of the English and Irish exchequers had added the concerns of Ireland to those on which he had been accustomed to address them; and a very considerable portion of labour had been directed to incorporate the accounts of the two nations. The arrangements which had been made would bring them under the consideration of the

committee in a more convenient and uniform manner than that in which they had ever before been submitted to them. On this point he alluded to the directions given by act of parliament for the discharging of all balances between the English and Irish exchequers to the 5th of January last, and for cancelling all grants on the consolidated fund which had not been realized on that day, and were not likely to be realized within any moderate period. The consequence was, that from the 5th of January a new account was opened for the consolidated treasuries, and the technical distinctions which had hitherto subsisted between them were no more.

The committee appointed by that House to inquire into the expenditure and income of the country had not encumbered their report with a statement of the various distinctions of consolidated fund, war taxes, and other details of parliamentary appropriation; but had on the one side set down the whole amount of the finances of the country, and on the other the sum total of its expenditure. He regretted to state, that it appeared from the report, that the deficiency of the revenue for England, compared to that of the year preceding, amounted to ten per cent. and for Ireland to twenty per cent.; but at the termination of a war like that which

was just concluded, it could not be wondered at that part of the population should be reduced to great distress.

Notwithstanding the unpleasant circumstances to which he had just referred, the means by which he proposed to meet the supplies of the year, were, he thought, of a nature perfectly unobjectionable, and amply sufficient. In the usual form, he should first go through the supplies required in the present year, and then state the ways and means to meet them.

Army (including 1,500,000*l.* for extraordinaries, and exclusive of troops in France,) 9,080,000*l.*

For 1816, it would be remembered the total sum granted on account of the army, amounted to 10,809,737*l.*

The grant last year on account of the navy (exclusive of the grant for the reduction of the navy debt) amounted nearly to 10,000,000*l.* (It was more exactly stated 9,964,195*l.*)

In the present year the grant required for the navy was 6,000,000*l.* exclusive of a grant of 1,660,000*l.* for the reduction of navy debt.

To the grant of last year a very considerable sum might also be added, as in 1816 there had been paid off 2,000,000*l.* of the navy debt. The sum appropriated to this purpose had been taken from the unapplied money remaining in the exchequer from the grants of 1815. The whole sum, therefore, which had been applied to the service of the navy in the last year, amounted to nearly 12,000,000*l.*

The ordnance created in the present year a charge of 1,213,000*l.*

Last year, under the same head, there had been required the sum of 1,613,142*l.* Here a reduction had been effected of about 400,000*l.*, being about one fourth of the whole. The miscellaneous services would call for a supply of 1,700,000*l.* including the sums already voted in the present session. Last year, the same services had required 2,500,000*l.* In this instance, therefore, a reduction had been made of 800,000*l.* The total supply, therefore, that was called for in the present year, exclusive of the interest of the funded debt, for the expense of the several establishments for twelve months (not on the peace establishment, for he was far from thinking we had yet arrived at what might properly be so called,) would amount to 18,001,000*l.*, or what, speaking in round numbers, he would call 18,000,000*l.* It would be remembered, that at the opening of the present session, his noble friend had estimated the expenditure of the year for the services he had enumerated at 18,300,000*l.* The actual supply called for came below the estimated sum by almost 300,000*l.* Last year, the grants for the same services amounted to 24,887,000*l.* The reduction effected in the present year, it would therefore be seen, fell little short of 7,000,000*l.*, being considerably more than one-fourth, and amounting to very near one-third of the whole. In addition to the 18,000,000*l.* required for the proper service of the year, a further provision would be necessary on account of the unfunded debt. In the first instance there was a charge of 1,900,000*l.* for the interest on exchequer bills the

the principal of which would be discharged in the course of the present year. This item, though large, the committee would look upon with satisfaction, when they considered how much the improved state of public credit lessened the charge thus incurred in providing for the ways and means of the year. A proper idea of this might be formed, when it was considered, that what cost the country almost 2,200,000*l.* for the service of 1816, would in the present year create but a charge of 1,900,000*l.* upon an amount of principal considerably increased; and when it was further borne in mind, that a few years ago the same operation would have occasioned an expense of 2,500,000*l.* The sinking fund on the money thus kept floating as unfunded debt would amount to 330,000*l.* making a total charge on amount

of exchequer bills of 2,230,000*l.* On winding up the accounts between the English and Irish exchequers an advance had been found necessary in order to clear up all demands on the consolidated fund of Ireland to the 5th of January last, from which period they had started on a new account. This had caused a grant to be called for (in order to make good the permanent charges of Ireland up to that time), of 246,508*l.* Towards the reduction of the navy and transport debt, a supply was demanded of 1,660,000*l.* There was thus, it would be seen, a new total of 4,136,508*l.* to provide for the charges of unfunded debt, or to make good previously existing deficiencies, which formed no part of the supply necessary for the service of the year. The different items and the grand total were as follows :

SUPPLIES.

Army (including 1,500,000 <i>l.</i> for extraordinaries, and exclusive of troops in France.....	£9,080,000
Navy (exclusive of grant for the reduction of navy debt).....	6,000,000
Ordnance.....	1,221,300
Miscellaneous.....	1,700,000

Total supply for the service of the year 1817.....	£18,001,300
Interest on exchequer bills... 1,900,000	
Sinking fund on ditto..... 330,000	
To make good the permanent charges of Ireland to Jan. 5, 1817.....	246,508
Towards reduction of navy and transport debt.....	1,660,000
	<hr/> 4,136,508

£22,137,808

He had now to call the attention of the committee to the manner in which he proposed to meet the above demands. The first article which he should notice was the annual duties on malt, sugar, tobacco, and some other articles which had been taken at the usual amount of 300,000*l.* The committee were aware that those duties always produced considerably more than the sum of 300,000*l.* charged upon them, and that the surplus was carried into the consolidated fund.

He next proposed to avail himself of the ways and means for 1815 and 1816 exceeding the amount of the supplies which remained to be paid out of them. The sum for the former year was 15,749*l.* and for the latter 1,849,810*l.* These sums formed what, in the language of the exchequer, was called surplus of ways and means. He did not, however, mean to take credit for them as a genuine surplus, as in fact they became disposable only in consequence of parliament having, since they were granted, made a different provision for great part of the supplies charged upon them; whereby they became applicable to the service of the present year, instead of those for which they were originally provided. The whole, after retaining a sufficient sum to pay the supplies charged on them, amounted to 1,865,559*l.* arising in great part from the temporary excise duties, upon which 3,500,000*l.* had been granted in 1816, but of which sum only 1,494,592*l.* had been received on the 5th of April last. There remained, therefore, to be received on that day

2,005,408*l.*, and it was estimated that before the 5th of April 1818 they would produce the further sum of 1,300,000*l.* for which, therefore, he should take credit as the next item in the ways and means of the present year.

He should in the next place advert to the amount of the consolidated fund remaining at the disposal of parliament on the 5th of April last. In this case also a surplus had been produced by the recent proceedings of parliament. A considerable deficiency had accrued in the produce of the consolidated fund on the 5th of January, but that deficiency having been made good by subsequent votes of the House, and all grants affecting the consolidated fund having been cancelled by act of parliament, its surplus produce on the 5th of April remained disposable for the service of the present year. The sums now remaining in the exchequer of Great Britain and Ireland, and which he should propose to vote on this account, amounted to 1,225,978*l.* or in round numbers 1,226,000*l.*

The lottery was taken at 250,000*l.* and though this might appear a larger sum than that of last year, yet, when the whole account was compared, it would be found that the lottery was reduced 50,000*l.* instead of being so much higher, as one third of the profit of the lottery had last year been reserved for Ireland, according to the practice which had prevailed ever since the union, whereas this year the whole estimated profit was carried to one account. The whole amount was therefore taken at 300,000*l.* in 1816, and at only 250,000*l.* in the

the present year. The next item he had to state to the committee was that arising from the sale of old naval stores, the amount of which he estimated for the last year at 400,000*l.* There was one item more he had to include in the ways and means for the year. It was the arrears of the property tax, of which a considerable sum was due on the 5th of April last. The whole arrear estimated likely to be received in the year ending

on the 5th of April 1818, was 1,500,000*l.* These several items of ways and means amounted altogether to 9,541,537*l.*; so that there was required to make good the supply 12,600,000*l.* This he proposed to raised by Irish treasury bills to the amount of 3,600,000*l.*, and a new issue of 900,000*l.* of exchequer bills. Having concluded these statements, he would now recapitulate the different items of the

WAYS AND MEANS.

£3,000,000—Annual Duties	£3,000,000
Disposable 1815	15,749
Ways and Means 1816	1,849,810
	<hr/> 1,865,559
3,500,000—Excise Duties continued (after satisfying the grant thereon for the year 1816).	1,300,000
Money remaining at the disposal of parliament of the consolidated fund at April 5, 1817.	1,225,978
250 000—Lottery.	250,000
Old stores	400,000
Arrears of property tax received or to be received between the 5th of April, 1817, and 5th of April 1818.	1,500,000
	<hr/> 9,541,537
Irish treasury bills	3,600,000
Exchequer bills	9,000,000
	<hr/> 12,600,000
	<hr/> 22,141,537

The first total of the ways and means which he had stated, namely, the 9,541,537*l.* might be regarded as the ready money actually in the exchequer, or which would be received in the course of the year; but that was the whole which the ordinary resources offered for covering the

expenditure. It was therefore clear, that the above balance of 12,600,000*l.* was necessary to equalize the ways and means and the supply; and he was convinced that that sum could not be raised in a way more advantageous to the country than that which he had proposed. He should, in the first

first place, endeavour to explain to the committee how the account of the 3,600,000*l.* Irish treasury bills stood. The House would recollect that before Easter there had been a grant of 4,200,000*l.* for repaying certain Irish treasury bills. Upon communication with the bank of England and the bank of Ireland (the whole of the treasury bills being held by them), it was found that the directors of those establishments were disposed to exchange the bills they held for new bills. Two hundred and fifty thousand pounds had however already been paid to the bank of Ireland, and as that body required 5 per cent. interest, it was not thought advisable to renew the whole sum now outstanding, but to pay off, as occasion offered, such bills as were held by the bank of Ireland. Only a small part of the Irish treasury bills in their hands were however due till December and January next, and it would therefore be time enough to make arrangements for paying them off after the next meeting of parliament. The remaining sum of 9,000,000*l.* he proposed, as he had already stated, to raise by exchequer bills; and he was the more induced to take this proportion of the deficiency in that way, as the bank of England in its negotiations would be satisfied with a more moderate rate of interest than was paid in Ireland. Before the meeting of parliament he could have borrowed twelve millions by an advance upon exchequer bills from one set of contractors, and on terms which then appeared favourable; but from the appearance of the money market, he

thought it better not to avail himself of it, and to take the chance of making a more advantageous arrangement, in which he had succeeded even beyond his expectations. He had indeed found the state of the market such, that by issuing exchequer bills gradually in preference to borrowing in one sum upon the same sort of security, he had saved 300,000*l.* in annual interests. The power of the money market to take off 9,000,000*l.* of exchequer bills, he thought could not be questioned, when it was considered, that of the 42,000,000*l.* previously granted by parliament 27,000,000*l.* had already been put into circulation in the course of the present session. There were, therefore, only bills to the amount of 15,000,000*l.* further to be issued. The 9,000,000*l.* he now proposed to add would make 24,000,000*l.* and, all things considered, he apprehended that there would not be more thrown into the market than could be easily absorbed. It ought at the same time to be recollected, that as the interest had been reduced from 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$, there was a saving in that respect of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. From the measure he proposed, he therefore had reason to expect great advantage both to the agriculture and commerce of the country, and he doubted whether it would have been possible to derive equal benefit from any other arrangement. Although the revenue, from causes over which his Majesty's ministers could have no control, had fallen short six or eight millions, there had been an evident improvement in our public credit. It might be recollected, that

that when he addressed the House last year on the financial situation of the country, the three per cent. consols. were only between 62 and 63; at present they were above 74. This was an improvement of twelve per cent. on 62, which, calculated upon 100*l.* stock, was equal to nearly 20 per cent. The exchequer bills were then at an interest of $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and were sold at par. Those now in circulation bore an interest of only $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; and on this very day those bills bore 12*s.* premium. These were circumstances which proved the manifest advantage of the system he had pursued, and now proposed to continue. But it was not in the money market only that the beneficial influence of that system had been felt. A proportional improvement was experienced in every description of property in the country. Large sums had already been sold out of the funds, and applied in aid of the landed interest, in purchases of real property and advances upon mortgages. Similar accommodation had been afforded to the commercial interests of the country by the increasing facility and cheapness of discount. Another most important improvement in the situation of the country had taken place since his last financial statement in the virtual resumption of cash payments by the bank. When he had suggested that the bank might be enabled to pay in specie in the course of two years, his statement was received with ridicule and incredulity. The suggestion which he threw out had, however, been completely realized; for the payments in cash

had been for every practicable purpose resumed. He could not but congratulate the House and the country upon the removal of the doubts and alarms which had been entertained on this subject. None of the evils which had been so profusely foretold, had occurred; and this great change had been accomplished without any shock or danger to public credit. Those who had with regret anticipated these mischievous consequences, he was sure, would now join with him in rejoicing at the state in which our country was now placed. The notes of the Bank of England had even during the restriction been preferred to those of every other bank in Europe. What then must be the effect of the removal of that restriction? A third circumstance, to which he could not but call the attention of the committee with peculiar satisfaction, was that, with regard to the public debt, the expectations he held out last year had been more than realized. He had stated an expectation that it would be reduced at least 3,000,000*l.*: the balance of debt repaid exceeded this sum. The amount paid in 1816 had been stated by the committee on finance at 9,400,000*l.*; but from this sum it might be fair to make a deduction of 6,000,000*l.*, which formed part of the loans raised for the service of 1815, but which had not been paid into the exchequer till 1816; so that the actual balance discharged was 3,400,000*l.* This was most satisfactory: but it was not all; for since the 1st of November 1815, at which time the national debt stood at its highest amount, thirty-two millions

millions of capital stock had actually been purchased up. If, instead of borrowing exchequer bills, he had funded capital stock, it would have been impossible to have operated a reduction of the debt to the same extent. Whether there would be an equal diminution of debt in the present year as in the last, was what he could not pretend to assert. He did not wish to state a positive opinion on the subject; but he estimated that, with some addition to the 12,600,000*l.* he had already mentioned, he might have to borrow altogether about 14,000,000*l.*, and that it was probable there would be paid off about 16½. There might, therefore, be a diminution, not of 3½, as in the last year, but probably of 2½ millions.

With the improvement of our finances, he looked forward to a speedy improvement in the internal comfort and prosperity of the country. [Hear, hear!] He did not consider this expectation unreasonable. A great part of the public distress arose, not from any derangement in our domestic affairs, but from the general state of Europe. At a time when all over the continent many were struggling for the mere necessities of life, it was not to be expected that there could be a great demand for our manufactures. This country fortunately had not been reduced to so low a state as some others had, but we could not expect to escape without sharing in the general calamity. If, however, Providence blessed us with a favourable harvest, he should confidently hope to see a

steady restoration of our revenues and our former prosperity. He had taken the liberty of stating this much, merely to impress on the recollection of the committee, that even under the unfavourable circumstances of the last year, all the benefits which he had held out as likely to result from the plans he had proposed had been more than realized. He anticipated a still more sensible improvement; but he sincerely trusted that the country would never find it necessary to resort to any of those desperate and dangerous remedies which some persons had thought it proper to recommend. It was alone upon the firmness of parliament and the loyalty of the people, that the security of public credit and the restoration of national prosperity depended. He had now only to state, that he estimated the amount of the interest of the exchequer and treasury bills necessary to meet the supply at 450,000*l.* and he contemplated that that sum would be saved by the reduction which had taken place in the interest of unfunded debt since the last session of parliament. Thus the public would be subjected to no new charge whatever. He concluded by moving, “That, towards making good the supply granted to his Majesty, there be issued and applied the sum of 15,749*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* remaining in the receipt of the exchequer of Great Britain of the surplus of the grants for the year 1815.”

The several resolutions were agreed to.

CHAPTER VIII.

Continuance of Irish Insurrection Act.—Mr. Wilberforce's Motion for an Address to the Prince Regent relative to the Foreign Slave Trade.—Parliament closes.—Prince Regent's Speech.

IRISH INSURRECTION ACT.

ON June 13th the order of the day being on the subject of going into a committee on the bill for continuing the Irish Insurrection Act, *Sir Henry Parnell* rose to move that it should be referred to a committee for this day se'nnight, in place of this evening, for the purpose of the appointment of a committee to inquire whether there existed any necessity for such a measure. The chief secretary for Ireland had laid before the House, in the last and present session, certain documents referring to disturbances in Ireland, the latter of which mentioned outrages which had occurred in the county of Louth. It was upon the last of these documents that the right hon. gentleman had called upon the House to continue these most severe and unconstitutional measures; but it was incumbent upon the House to exercise its inquisitorial powers, and to examine whether the disturbed state of only four baronies in one county of Ireland was a sufficiently strong case for such an expedient. The law was one of uncommon severity: it went to create six new transportable offences; to enable the magistrates at sessions to proceed to trial without either grand

or petit juries; and to sentence persons guilty of no greater crime than being absent from their homes after sunset, to be transported for seven years. But the right hon. gentleman, in palliation of his case, says, "the law is not general; the House may depend upon the moderation of the magistrates in requiring its enforcement, and upon the forbearance of government." But the occurrence in the county of Louth fully proved the disposition of the magistrates; for they were led to apply to government in consequence of a single outrage, which, though not of great enormity, had the effect of producing a compliance with their wishes. The continuance of the Insurrection Act appeared to the hon. member particularly objectionable, because it seemed to be one intended to complete the new system for the future government of Ireland. Though we were now in a state of peace with all the world, the right hon. gentleman had proceeded just as if we were in the midst of a war. He had first obtained an arms bill; he had then made his own particular law, the peace act, stronger than before; and he now aims at the continuance of the Insurrection Act.

The hon. baronet would not go so far as to say, that the facts produced

produced showed that the Insurrection bill was not necessary; but they certainly proved the propriety of making some inquiry before the measure was adopted. If a committee were appointed, he should himself be prepared to point out some means for strengthening the civil power. He concluded by moving, "that the bill be committed this day se'nnight."

Mr. V. Fitzgerald said he could see no good ground for even a day's delay. The act had been passed by several successive parliaments, and no gentleman could be supposed ignorant of its contents; and being now near its expiration, it was thought necessary to revive it, lest the government of Ireland should be divested of its present powers. The government proclamation applied only to Louth, but the outrage was to be considered as coupled with the general state of the country. Every day produced fresh outrages; and at length there was an unanimous request from the magistrates, and from a county meeting, after which the proclamation was issued.

Mr. Peel said, that he was led to attend to the county of Louth more particularly, because the disturbances which called for its exercise there, were more recently laid before the House, and the atrocities with which they were accompanied had made the deepest impression on the country. His argument was, that though the country was generally tranquil, yet if there was one part of it so disturbed that the laws could not be executed in their usual course, it was necessary to arm the government with this act, to

be exercised on its responsibility when the emergency arose. The hon. baronet proposed that the bill should be suspended till farther inquiry should be made by a committee. For his own part he saw no reason for the appointment of such a committee. If there was a measure brought before Parliament on which it was competent to decide, without the delay of a committee, it was the present. There never came before Parliament a case in which government had more clearly offered the grounds on which it called for permission to act upon its responsibility, and on which the House had received better means of judging whether it ought to be granted. The hon. baronet had said that the Insurrection Act was an evil, in which he (*Mr. Peel*) fully concurred; but unhappily there was now only a choice of evils; and was it better to give to government the power of preserving tranquillity even by a severe measure, or to allow the country to be converted into a scene of confusion by withholding the present act?

Sir W. Burroughs entered into an examination of the several clauses of the act, and commented in strong terms on its severity. He particularly dwelt upon the great disproportion between the numbers apprehended and the numbers convicted in the several counties; and argued, that as it was to be presumed that the petty sessions had done their duty, therefore all those acquitted had been justly acquitted, and had consequently been wrongfully arrested.

After some further discussions,
Sir

Sir H. Parnell's amendment was put and negatived. The House then resolved itself into a committee, when Sir W. Burroughs proposed to limit the duration of the bill to six weeks after the meeting of the next session of Parliament; which was negatived, and the duration was fixed at one year.

It does not appear that any further proceedings took place during the passage of this bill through either of the Houses.

FOREIGN SLAVE TRADE.

On July 9th, *Mr. Wilberforce* rose to bring forward a motion, the object of which was to give weight to the executive power in its negotiations with foreign countries. He lamented to say, that among those powers which had declared their intention of abolishing the Slave Trade, there were no appearances of being disposed to carry the purpose into effect; and that the subjects of some of the powers were even engaged in carrying on this odious traffic. He was sorry to be obliged to state, that under the flag of America this trade was in some measure practised; that at Goree and Senegal it was vigorously pursued; that a charge had been brought in one instance against Holland; but that the great evil in which all others sunk into insignificance, was the trade now carried on for slaves by Portugal and Spain. The latter power seemed as if they almost intended to ridicule our efforts for the amelioration of the state of Africa. When we had particularly chosen a part of the coast for our efforts in introducing civilization, the Spaniards for their

purposes fixed upon the very same spot; and in consequence, great numbers of natives of Spain, or others who sailed under the Spanish flag, now frequented that quarter. In places where schools had been established, and efforts had been made to induce the chieftains to supply their wants by peaceful industry and legitimate commerce, the Spaniards now came to persuade them to return to their old habits by selling their subjects, or making war upon their neighbours. Ships are crowded beyond all precedent. As the persons engaged in this illicit traffic were apprehensive of being taken, they constructed vessels not calculated for stowage, but for quick sailing, whence the miseries of these unhappy beings were increased. In an instance it had been stated, that of 540 negroes embarked, 340 had died. Of the slaves procured by the Spaniards, the greater part were sent to the Havannah. By a paper which had been obtained by the Cortes, it appeared that there had been imported into that colony in eleven years, from 1799 to 1811, about 110,000, or 10,000 per year; and in the three last years the importation was much greater. The Spanish and Portuguese flags formed also a cover for the illicit traders of other nations. It had been decided by high authority to be law, that though Portuguese vessels might be found trading for slaves in parts which they had renounced the right to trade to, they could not be made a prize unless they had intruded upon our possessions. The ships of Spain, when questioned, often defended themselves, or anticipated attack by aggression. They had,

had, indeed, committed acts of piracy of the most flagrant kind. They had driven away the native merchants from the coast, to keep it clear for their horrible traffic.

After some further observations, Mr. Wilberforce concluded with moving, "That an humble address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, most humbly to represent to his Royal Highness, that, in bringing to a close the other business of this session, a great and important duty still remains to be performed by Parliament, that of again submitting to his Royal Highness, in the most dutiful but urgent terms, the expression of our continued and unceasing solicitude for the universal and final abolition of the African slave trade :

"That we are grateful for the efforts already made, and for the progress which we have had the happiness to witness, in the achievement of this great work : That we rejoice that, in all his Majesty's dominions, this wickedness is now for ever proscribed, and that our laws have stigmatized it by severe and ignominious punishment :

"That we have seen, with unspeakable satisfaction, that so many of the other nations, under whose flag this criminal traffic had formerly been protected, had now joined in the same prohibition, and have contracted with his Majesty, and with each other, the obligation of persevering in it, as in a duty from which they never can be released : and that our confident expectations of the universal adoption of that prohibition have been greatly confirmed and strengthened by that memorable

declaration which was promulgated by the plenipotentiaries of all the principal powers of Europe, assembled in their general congress ; a declaration which well became the just and powerful sovereigns in whose names it was issued ; proclaiming to their subjects and to the world, their deliberate conviction, that "the African slave trade is repugnant to the principles of humanity and of universal morality ;" and adding to that avowal, the gracious and solemn assurance of their earnest desire "to put an end to a scourge which has so long desolated Africa, degraded Europe, and afflicted humanity :

"That we must indeed deeply regret, that practices acknowledged to be of such a character should, even for an hour, be continued, and even tolerated under the sanction of any civilized and Christian government ; but that it is impossible for us to doubt of that ultimate determination by which these crimes and miseries will finally be terminated : this engagement has been deliberately taken, and publicly and unequivocally announced, and its performance is imperiously required by every motive of interest, and of honour, of humanity, and of justice :

"That we beg leave, however, with all humility, to represent to his Royal Highness, that the actual attainment of this great object can alone discharge our country from the obligation of pursuing it with unremitting attention and with daily increasing earnestness ; and that we cannot disguise from ourselves the painful certainty, that the intermediate suspense

pense and delay not only prolong, but greatly augment, the evil which we are thus labouring to remedy :

“ That it appears to us but too notorious, that these crimes, hitherto partially checked by the prohibition of so many just governments, and by the abhorrence of all good men, are now again renewed, and are carried on with fresh, and continually increasing activity ; that many of the subjects of those powers which have concurred in the abolition, are found, nevertheless, still to pursue the some nefarious course ; that the stipulations by which other governments have consented to put limits to this evil, stipulations purchased by this country at the price of large sacrifices, are constantly, and almost openly disregarded ; while the protection of the only remaining flag under which this wickedness can now be carried on without limit or restraint, and the intervention of the only nation to which its continuance is indiscriminately permitted, are used, not merely to protect this horrible traffic in the extent to which that people formerly pursued it, but as a sanction to its indefinite increase in their hands, and as a cover for the breach of the laws by which all other civilized communities have restrained their subjects from embarking in it :

“ That, in humbly submitting these painful circumstances to the humane and enlightened consideration of his Royal Highness, we are sure it cannot be requisite to dwell upon the other and great evils which they necessarily involve : that this state of things

has led, by manifest and necessary consequence, to a system of armed defiance and outrage, a system utterly destructive of all peaceful commerce, insulting to legitimate authority, and, in its effects and consequences, little, if at all, short of open piracy : that this system also impedes, or rather it altogether frustrates, the just and benevolent endeavours of those powers, who are labouring to introduce among the natives of Africa the arts, and habits of civilized life ; is productive of perpetual contest and irritation, leading not unfrequently to open violence between his Majesty's ships and subjects, and those of the sovereigns in amity and alliance with this country ; and continually endangers even those relations, the maintenance of which is of the utmost moment to their interests and to ours, as well as to the general repose and tranquillity of Europe :

“ To represent to his Royal Highness, that being deeply impressed with the magnitude of all these considerations, we earnestly entreat his Royal Highness, that he will be pleased to pursue with unremitted activity, those negotiations into which he has already entered on this most momentous subject ; that he will establish for this purpose the most effective concert with those sovereigns, whose just and benevolent principles respecting it, have already been announced to the world in concurrence with his own ; and that he will leave no effort untried to bring the present evils to a speedy and immediate termination, and thereby to prevent the future and still greater mischiefs which

which their continuance must inevitably produce.

“That we confidently hope that his Royal Highness’s urgent but friendly representations will produce their desired effect; yet that in justice to the great interests that are at stake, we cannot but feel it our indispensable duty, to express our confident expectation, that if all his Royal Highness’s amicable endeavours should prove unavailing, the great powers which, at the congress of Vienna, so honourably announced to the world their abhorrence of the slave trade, as radically unjust and cruel, will deem themselves compelled by an over-ruling sense of duty, to adopt, however reluctantly, such a course of commercial policy, as, without infringing on the just rights of any other nation, will alone prevent their indirectly, but powerfully, contributing to the continued existence of this inhuman traffic:

“That there is one important truth, which we beg leave most earnestly to press on his Royal Highness’s most serious attention, a truth which painful experience has too fully taught us, that, however strong may be the prohibitions of the slave trade, and with how great sincerity soever they may be issued, they will prove practically inefficient, unless some general concert for ascertaining and bringing to punishment the offending parties, be mutually established between the several powers, under whose flags this trade has been, or may be carried on:

“That we must once more declare to his Royal Highness, that in enforcing these considerations on his Royal Highness’s most serious attention, we are actuated

not merely by the feelings of humanity, but by the positive dictates of duty and conscience: that it is by these motives, and not as claiming any superiority in point of humanity or of morals, that we are actuated in our earnest desires to obtain the co-operation of all other civilized nations: that, remembering how long and how largely this country contributed to augment the miseries, and perpetuate the barbarism of Africa, we cannot but esteem ourselves specially and peculiarly bound, not to leave that vast continent in its present degraded state, but to endeavour, so far as we may be able, both by our own conduct, and in concert with other powers, to repair the wrongs we have inflicted, by opening the way for the diffusion of those blessings which, under the favour of Providence, a legitimate commerce, and a friendly intercourse with the enlightened nations of Europe, cannot fail to introduce in their train.”

Lord Castlereagh, while he complimented his honourable friend on his steady perseverance in the great cause in which he had so much distinguished himself, hinted at the difficulty of coming to an understanding with the two reluctant powers without a danger of injuring pendent negotiations. He therefore would not enter into the subject at greater length at present, but would not oppose the address, because it expressed the sentiments of his Majesty’s government.

Occasion was then taken by some members to give their opinions; but the address was agreed to without opposition.

The session of parliament concluded
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cluded on July 12th, with the following speech from his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen ;

“ I cannot close this session of parliament, without renewing my expressions of deep regret at the continuance of his Majesty’s lamented indisposition.

“ The diligence with which you have applied yourselves to the consideration of the different objects which I recommended to your attention at the commencement of the session, demands my warmest acknowledgments ; and I have no doubt that the favourable change which is happily taking place in our internal situation, is to be mainly ascribed to the salutary measures which you have adopted for preserving the public tranquillity, and to your steady adherence to those principles by which the constitution, resources, and credit of the country have been hitherto preserved and maintained.

“ Notwithstanding the arts and industry which have been too successfully exerted in some parts of the country to alienate the affections of his Majesty’s subjects, and to stimulate them to acts of violence and insurrection, I have had the satisfaction of receiving the most decisive proofs of the loyalty and public spirit of the great body of the people ; and the patience with which they have sustained the most severe temporary distress cannot be too highly commended.

“ I am fully sensible of the confidence which you have manifested towards me, by the extraordinary powers which you have placed in my hands : the necessity which has called for them is to me

matter of deep regret ; and you may rely on my making a temperate but effectual use of them, for the protection and security of his Majesty’s loyal subjects.

“ Gentlemen of the House of Commons ;

“ I thank you for the supplies which you have granted to me ; and for the laborious investigation which, at my recommendation, you have made into the state of the income and expenditure of the country.

“ It has given me sincere pleasure to find that you have been enabled to provide for every branch of the public service without any addition to the burthens of the people.

“ The state of public credit affords a decisive proof of the wisdom and expediency, under all the present circumstances, of those financial arrangements which you have adopted.

“ I have every reason to believe that the deficiency in the revenue is, in a great degree, to be ascribed to the unfavourable state of the last season ; and I look forward with sanguine expectations to its gradual improvement.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen ;

“ The measures which were in progress at the commencement of the session, for the issue of a new silver coinage, have been carried into execution in a manner which has given universal satisfaction ; and to complete the system which has been sanctioned by parliament, a gold coinage of a new denomination has been provided for the convenience of the public.

“ I continue to receive from foreign powers the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards this country, and of their

their desire to preserve the general tranquillity.

“ The prospect of an abundant harvest throughout a considerable part of the continent is in the highest degree satisfactory. This happy dispensation of Providence cannot fail to mitigate, if not wholly to remove, that pressure under which so many of the nations of Europe have been suffering in the course of the last year ; and I trust that we may look forward in consequence to an improvement in the commercial relations of this and of all other countries.

“ I cannot allow you to separate without recommending to you, that upon your return to your several counties, you should use your utmost endeavours to defeat all attempts to corrupt and mislead the lower classes of the community ; and that you should lose no opportunity of inculcating amongst them that spirit of concord and obedience to the laws, which is not less essential to their happiness as individuals, than it is indispensable to the general welfare and prosperity of the kingdom.”

CHAPTER IX.

Domestic Events.—Course of the Year.—Double suspension of the Habeas Corpus.—Celebration of the Queen's and Prince Regent's Birth-Days.—Trials.—Special Commission held at Derby.

DOMESTIC EVENTS, &c.

THIS year commenced with the distress spread through the greatest part of Europe, in consequence of the late and unproductive harvest of the last autumn. Although the British islands partook in a smaller degree of the prevalent evil than most other countries, from which their free admission to all foreign ports afforded them important relief, yet hardships fell heavy upon certain districts too remote from such tardy aid; and Ireland, especially, suffered severely from the want of the most essential articles of human sustenance. We are informed that the distress was so great in particular parts, that the poor people could find no other resource than that of anticipating their crop of potatoes by an unripe product. As the year advanced, however, better prospects began to open; and it was the general opinion that corn and other products seldom offered a more promising harvest to the cultivator. Whether this promise has not been exaggerated may be a matter of doubt; at least it appears certain that the year has concluded with an advance in the price of wheat and barley which could hardly have been expected at the time of their first decline.

A distinguishing character of

the present year has been the double suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act; which, after being one of the first parliamentary measures at the beginning of the session, was resumed near the close of it, and voted to be continued till the commencement of another session, in consequence of a renewed alarm. We refer to our view of the debates in Parliament for the particulars of this remarkable contest; of the issue of which we shall only observe, that whilst the ministerial members expressed great regret at being obliged to have recourse to a temporary violation of the constitution for the purpose of preventing the most urgent dangers, their opponents held that no danger was equal to the habit of entrusting ministers, at their own convenience or pleasure, with an expedient fatal to liberty.

CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S
BIRTH-DAY.

Some months ago the Prince Regent, with a view to relieve the distresses of the manufacturing classes, by affording them employment, gave directions in the *Gazette* for the public celebration of the Queen's birth-day, and of his own; and, in order to make the relief more effectual, notice was given, that it was expected, that on both occasions all those who should

should attend the Court would appear in dresses entirely of British manufacture. In further pursuance of this plan, his Royal Highness ordered all his state and household officers to wear costly dresses of home fabrication, and those dresses were directed to be made into three classes of uniforms, according to the respective ranks of those officers. The first class consists of suits for the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward, and the Groom of the Stole. The coats are of dark purple, with crimson velvet collars, richly ornamented all over with gold. Not only those persons who are immediately under the command of the Prince Regent had complied with the laudable direction of wearing British dresses, but all the company present yesterday showed that they had been equally anxious to afford relief to their suffering countrymen by employment, which is the only permanently useful mode of relief.

The Court, in honour of the Queen's birth-day, was at first fixed for the 6th of February; but her Majesty being at that time unable, from the effects of her late illness, to bear the fatigues incident to these occasions, it was postponed to the 20th, when her Majesty was entirely recovered.

The day was announced, as usual, by the ringing of bells and the salute of artillery; and the people reminded by these intimations, flocked in great numbers to the vicinity of the Queen's Palace. The weather, which had been very dull and rainy, began to clear up about 2 o'clock, and the scene became very gay and magnificent. The company began to arrive about one, and continued

to do so till half-past three. The Prince Regent arrived in state about half-past three: his carriage was preceded, surrounded, and followed by a party of life-guards. The procession passed along in perfect silence. Most of the Royal Family went in state. The Duke and Duchess of York arrived first: then the Princess Charlotte and Prince Leopold; next the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester; and lastly, the Duke of Sussex and the Princess Sophia of Gloucester. The Speaker of the House of Commons went in state, and also the Austrian and Dutch ambassadors.

Her Majesty entered the drawing-room about two o'clock, and first received the congratulations of the foreign ambassadors, of the Cabinet Ministers, and of all who had the privilege of *entré*.

PRINCE REGENT'S BIRTH-DAY.

April 23, being St. George's day, had been selected as the day on which the birth of the Prince Regent was in future to be observed, instead of the 12th of August, and a drawing-room, and other splendours, were of course appointed: but a sudden indisposition of the Queen, which occurred in the course of the preceding night, prevented the drawing-room from taking place. Her Majesty was taken ill at an early hour of the morning. Sir Henry Hallford was immediately sent for, and attended the Royal patient twice before nine o'clock. Communications of the unlucky occurrence were dispatched to all the branches of the Royal Family; and, in the course of the morning, the streets leading to Buckingham-house and St. James's were placarded with bills, announcing the indisposition

tion of her Majesty, and her inability to receive company.

The morning was ushered in with ringing of bells. The guards mounted in white gaiters, and wore new clothes. Carlton-house was thronged during the whole of the day with all ranks, paying their respectful congratulations. The Tower guns fired at one o'clock; the firing of the Park guns was dispensed with in consequence of the indisposition of the Queen.

TRIALS, &c.

One of the first trials upon an accusation of the crime of sedition was that of Niel Douglas, an *universal preacher* in Glasgow, who was charged with words spoken in the pulpit in derogation of his Majesty, of the Prince Regent, and the whole House of Commons. The trial took place in the high court of Justiciary in Edinburgh on May 25; and the result was, that after a due attention to the evidence produced on both sides, Douglas was declared not guilty, and was dismissed from the court.

A trial in which the public was much more interested was that of the elder Watson, Surgeon, at the court of King's Bench, Westminster Hall, accused of high treason. It commenced on the 10th of June, and was continued till Monday the 16th, when the jury pronounced a verdict of Not guilty. The other persons implicated in the same accusation were afterwards discharged by the law officers.

About the same time a disposition to tumult and outrage broke out in several of the midland and northern counties, particularly

Lancashire, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire. These were for the most part speedily quelled; and from a considerable number sent for trial to York, the whole were either pronounced not guilty, or previously discharged, with the exception of two, who were detained by a secretary of state's warrant under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act.

A more melancholy result succeeded the trial of a number of prisoners, who were committed to the gaol of Derby on a charge of high treason. A special commission was issued to four judges, who in the month of October entered upon their office; and nothing could be more honourable to the criminal justice of the country than the manner in which it was executed. After the persons who had been adjudged worthy of death had undergone their trial, Mr. Denman requested of the court that the prisoners remaining at the bar might be permitted to withdraw their plea of not guilty, and substitute that of guilty. The attorney-general readily consenting, nine prisoners were allowed to amend their plea, and ten more were permitted to join them. It was generally understood that their punishment would be commuted for some lighter sentence. Twelve more next appeared at the bar, whose names being called over, the attorney-general rose, and after a speech displaying much feeling, made a declaration that his painful task was now closed, and that the hand of mercy was meant to be extended to all the rest. The devoted number were only three, Brandreth, Turner, and Ludlam, who were executed at Derby on November 7th.

CHAPTER X.

France.—Decree respecting Slaves introduced in the Colonies.—Negotiations with the Allied Powers.—Ordinance concerning the Debts of the City of Paris.—Disturbances at Lyons.—Royal Ordinances for the creation of Majorats.—Election for the Chamber of Deputies, and Royal Speech.—Project of a Law for the Press.—Law for the establishment of Religion.

FRANCE.

THE following article made its appearance in the French papers in the month of January, by order of his Majesty.

Louis, &c.

Art. 1. Every vessel, whether French or foreign, which shall attempt to introduce into any of our colonies purchased blacks, shall be confiscated, and the captain, if a Frenchman, shall be held incapable of holding a command.

The whole cargo shall in like manner be confiscated, although not consisting of slaves: with respect to the negroes, they shall be employed on public works of utility in the colony.

Art. 2. The contraventions forbidden in the preceding article shall be tried according to the same forms as contraventions of the laws and regulations for foreign commerce. As for the produce of the confiscations pronounced in conformity to the said article, it shall be realized and supplied in the same manner as the produce of confiscations pronounced in matters of the contravention of the laws concerning foreign commerce.

Given at the Thuilleries, &c.
Jan. 8, 1817.

NEGOCIATIONS, &c.

Early in the year negotiations were carried on between the court of France, and the four principal allies, for the purpose of alleviating the burden under which that country was severely oppressed, in consequence of the foreign armies held by its principal towns. The result was the following official note presented to the Duke of Richelieu by the several resident ministers of the powers in question.

OFFICIAL NOTE RELATIVE TO THE
DIMINUTION OF THE ARMY OF
OCCUPATION.

The Courts of Austria, England, Prussia, and Russia, having taken into consideration the desire manifested by his most Christian Majesty to have the numbers of the Army of Occupation diminished, and proportionably the amount of charge occasioned by its presence on the French territory, have authorized the undersigned to make the following communication to his Excellency the Duke de Richelieu, President of the Council of Ministers, and Secretary of State for the Department of Foreign Affairs:—

At the time when the King, re-established upon his throne and
put

put in possession of his legitimate and constitutional authority, endeavoured to discover, in concert with the other powers, the most efficacious means of consolidating internal order in France, and of associating his kingdom to the system of good understanding and general pacification interrupted by the troubles which were scarcely put an end to; it was found that the temporary presence of an Allied Army was absolutely necessary both to secure Europe against the consequences of agitations, the renewal of which were threatened, and to afford to the Royal authority the opportunity of exercising in tranquillity its benevolent influence, and of strengthening itself by the attachment and submission of all Frenchmen.

The solicitude of his most Christian Majesty to render this indispensable expedient the least onerous to his subjects, and the wisdom which directed all the arrangements stipulated at that period, led them to anticipate by common accord the case in which the diminution of the Army of Occupation might take place without weakening the motives, or injuring the great interests, which had rendered its presence necessary.

These conditions the undersigned have great satisfaction in retracing; they consist in the firm establishment of the legitimate dynasty, and in the success of the efforts and endeavours of his most Christian Majesty to compress factions, dissipate errors, tranquillize passions, and unite all Frenchmen around the throne by

the same wishes and the same interests.

The great result desired and looked to by all Europe could be neither the work of a moment, nor the effect of a single effort. The Allied Powers have observed with a constant attention, but not with astonishment, the differences of opinion which have prevailed as to the mode of obtaining it. In this attitude they have looked to the superior wisdom of the King for the measures proper to fix uncertainty, and to give to his administration a firm and regular march; not doubting that he would unite with the dignity of the throne and the rights of his crown, that magnanimity which, after civil discord, assures and encourages the weak; and, by an enlightened confidence, excite the zeal of all his other subjects.

Experience having already happily fulfilled, as far as the nature of things will allow, the hopes of Europe upon this subject, the Allied Sovereigns, eager to contribute to this great work, and to give to the nation the means of enjoying all the benefits which the efforts and the wisdom of the King are preparing for it, do not hesitate to regard the present state of affairs as sufficient to determine the question which they have been called upon to decide.

The good faith with which the King's government has hitherto fulfilled the engagements entered into with the Allies, and the care which has been taken to provide for the different services of the current year, by adding to the resources arising from the revenues of the state those of a credit, guaranteed

ranted by foreign and national banking-houses the most considerable in Europe, have also removed the difficulties which might otherwise have justly arisen upon this point of the proposed question.

These considerations have at the same time been strengthened by the opinion which his Excellency Marshal the Duke of Wellington has been requested to give respecting an object of such great importance.

The favourable opinion and the authority of a personage so eminent have added, to the motives already stated, all those which human prudence can unite to justify a measure demanded and consented to with sentiments of sincere and reciprocal kindness.

The undersigned are therefore authorized by their respective courts to notify to his Excellency the Duke de Richelieu—

1. That the reduction of the Army of Occupation will be carried into effect.

2. That the amount of the diminution of the whole army shall be 30,000 men.

3. That this amount shall be proportioned to that of each contingent; that is to say, it shall be a fifth of each corps d'armée.

4. That it shall take place from the 1st of April next.

5. That from that period the 200,000 rations per day, furnished for the troops by the French government, shall be reduced to 160,000, without, however, in any respect altering the 50,000 rations of forage destined for the feed of the horses.

6. Lastly, that from the same period France shall otherwise en-

joy all the advantages arising from the said reduction, conformably to existing treaties and conventions.

In communicating so marked a testimony of friendship and confidence to his most Christian Majesty, on the part of their august masters, the undersigned have at the same time to declare to his Excellency the Duke de Richelieu, how much the principles of the ministry over which he presides, and those which are personal to himself, have contributed to establish that mutual good will, which, directed by the spirit and the letter of existing treaties, has hitherto served to arrange so many delicate affairs, and which affords for the future the most satisfactory pledges of a definitive and satisfactory conclusion.

They seize this opportunity of renewing to the Duke de Richelieu the assurances of their high consideration.

(Signed)

The Baron VINCENT.

CHARLES STUART.

The Count DE GOLTZ.

POZZO DI BORGO.

Paris, Feb. 10, 1817.

The session of the two chambers closed on March 26, *sine die*.

In May was published an ordinance from the King, relative to an obligation entered into by the city of Paris for the payment of its debts. It is to the following effect.

ORDINANCE OF THE KING RELATIVE TO THE LOAN OF THE CITY OF PARIS.

Louis, by the grace of God, &c.
The municipal administration of
our

our good city of Paris, having been placed under the necessity of issuing negotiable bills for raising the funds of which it stood in need, by the expences consequent upon the military occupation of the city in 1815, and by those incurred in consequence of the inclemency of the seasons of 1816, we had authorized, by our decrees of the 13th of September and 4th of October, 1815, and of the 15th of last January, the creation and alienation of 1,500,000 francs of perpetual rent, the produce of which was to be employed for liquidating the debts of our good city of Paris.

But it having been represented to us, that the alienation of these 1,500,000 francs of revenue has only proceeded to a small extent, and that the municipal administration of the city being convinced of the difficulty which it would have in redeeming it, prefers the adoption of another mode of extinguishing the debt, we have decreed :

Art. 1. That our good city of Paris is authorized to create 33,000 *obligations* to the bearer of the value of 1,000 francs each, forming the sum of 33,000,000 of francs, payable in the space of 12 years from the first of next October.

Art. 2. These obligations will be subjected only to the stamp duty, and will bear 6 per cent. interest, payable every three months; enjoying besides a premium, the amount of which will be determined by a lottery, in the proportion which will be fixed by an annexed table.

Art. 3. The discharge of the obligations and the payment of the premiums will be effected every

quarter, by a drawing, which will take place at the Hotel-de-Ville, a month before the day of payment arrives, in such a manner that, in the space of 12 years from the 1st of October next, to the 1st of July, 1829, there will be made by the city of Paris 48 quarterly payments, to liquidate the whole of the obligations and premiums, together with the interests conformably to an annexed table.

Art. 4. The city of Paris is authorized to negotiate the 33 millions of bills at the price and on the conditions which have been accepted by the municipal council.

Art. 5. The funds arising from this negotiation of bills will be employed exclusively in withdrawing from circulation that portion of its rents already engaged, &c.

Art. 6. To guarantee the payment of obligations, premiums, and interest, there will be allotted to the budget of Paris every year during the currency of the 12 years, a sum of 4,348,000 francs assessed upon its fixed or eventual revenues. This assessment will form the first part of the extraordinary expenses of the city.

Certain duties of tolls, markets, &c. are particularly specified as security for these payments.

Then follows the contract entered into by the Prefect of the Seine, acting for the city of Paris on the one hand, and MM. Dominick André and Francis Cottier, Basoni, L. Goupy, and Co. H. J. Hentsch, Blanc, and Co., J. M. Rosthchild, O. Worms de Romilly, on the other; by which the former agrees to the propositions made by the latter five mercantile houses, and receives from them an obligation to pay into the treasury

treasury of Paris the sum of 31,000,000 francs, by 19 instalments, the first of which to take place on the 1st of June, 1817, and the last on the 1st of June, 1818. For the liquidation of this sum of 31,000,000, the city of Paris binds itself to pay to the contractors, in the course of 12 years, the sum of 52,176,000*l* in 48 quarterly payments of 1,087,000*l*. each, between the 1st of October 1817, and the 1st of July, 1829. The city of Paris engages to make no loan during a year, to employ the sums contributed by the contractors for the purposes mentioned in the ordinance, and to create 33,000 obligations of 1,000 francs each, making 33,000,000

These obligations will bear an interest of 6 per cent. each, per annum, which interest, in consequence of successive liquidation of capital on the same bills, will amount, in the space of 12 years, to 13,094,770

In addition to this, the premiums, amounting to 6,081,230

Will raise the whole sum to 52,176,000

DISTURBANCES IN THE PROVINCES.

In June it was announced in a Paris paper that the disturbances which had taken place in several parts of France had entirely subsided. They appear to have risen chiefly from the high price of provisions, and the leader of a band who disturbed the markets at Yonne was condemned to twenty years captivity in irons. At Lyons,

however, some machinations of greater importance appear to have been in agitation; and the following proclamation, by the Comte de Fargues, Mayor of Lyons, evidently points out an intention in certain individuals of exciting a political conspiracy.

MAYORALTY OF LYON.

PROCLAMATION.

Inhabitants of the City of Lyon. —For several days sinister reports, which are but too frequently the forerunner of storms, have awakened the attention of the authorities, and led to the developement of the wicked designs of the disaffected, the gloomy advances of which, notwithstanding the shade of mystery under which they endeavoured to conceal them, could not escape the penetration of the magistrates.

A plot, as extravagant as criminal, was contemplated; and its ramifications extended to the surrounding country, where misguided individuals, seduced by fallacious promises, gave ear with confidence to the seditious discourses of the vilest instigators.

Their aim was disorder, pillage, and assassination; it was to these that their wishes and efforts were directed, and they were about to employ the most horrible means for their purposes: but all the details of this odious plot were in the hands of the authorities. Every means was taken to oppose a vigorous and legitimate resistance to the attempts of these scoundrels, whose criminal intentions were carried no farther than in assassinating, in the most shameful manner, the brave officers of the legion of l'Yonne.

Thanks to the wise and prudent arrange-

arrangements of the worthy magistrate to whom this department is confided; thanks to the able general who commanded the 19th military division; thanks to the courageous devotion of the national guard, who daily furnish fresh reason for an addition to the praises they so richly deserve; thanks to the faithful and valiant troops which compose the garrison; thanks at last to the zeal of the Lyonnese, who always know how to display that character and that French heart which has so eminently distinguished them—the plot was baffled, tranquillity has been maintained, and a great part of the insurgents have fallen into our hands.

An exemplary punishment, not less prompt than severe and justly merited, will show, that although indulgence is inexhaustible for errors and wanderings, justice can be inflexible in cases of crime, audacity, and revolt.

Inhabitants of the City of Lyon.—Your magistrates know how to appreciate you in case of emergency; they look to you with confidence. You may continue peaceable; you have no occasion for any fears—for any alarms; and you may rest satisfied under their care. You will rally round them; you will give your efforts to theirs to crown the success; and you will sustain the honour of a city always distinguished for its courage, its zeal for the maintenance of good order, and for the love which it bears to its lawful Sovereign.—*Vive le Roi!*

Done at the Hotel de Ville,

June 9, 1817.

The Mayor of the City of Lyon.

Le Comte de FARGUES.

MAJORATS.

On August 25th, two royal ordinances were published in the *Moniteur* relative to the establishment of *majorats* for [the Hereditary Peerage which is to compose the first order of the French Chambers. No person is in future to be called to the House of Peers, ecclesiastics excepted, who has not previously obtained the royal authority to form a *majorat*. Of the *majorats* there are to be three classes; those attached to the title of duke, consisting of property producing not less than 30,000 francs annually; those to the titles of marquis and count producing not less than 20,000 francs annually; and those to the titles of viscounts and barons, producing not less than 10,000 francs annually. The second ordinance directs the manner in which the patents of peerage are to be made out, the precedence of peers, the titles of their eldest sons, &c.

ELECTION OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

The election of the Chamber of Deputies took place in the month of September, conformably to the rule laid down by his Majesty in the September of the preceding year, which fixed the number to be returned by the 86 departments of the kingdom at 258, and limited the age prescribed for the deputies to such as had passed their fortieth year. The speech delivered by the King to both Chambers was to the following purpose.

Gentlemen,—At the opening of the last session I spoke to you of the hopes inspired by the marriage of the Duke de Berry. Though Providence

Providence has too suddenly withdrawn the gift it bestowed, yet we cannot fail to behold in it assurances of the future accomplishment of our wishes.

The treaty with the Holy See, which I announced last year, has since been concluded. I have commanded my ministers, in communicating it to you, to propose the project of a law, necessary to give the legislative sanction to such of its provisions as may be susceptible of it, and to place them in unison with the charter, the laws of the kingdom, and those privileges of the Gallican church, the precious inheritance of our fathers, of which St. Louis and all his successors were no less jealous than of the happiness of their subjects.

The harvest of 1816, by its bad quality, frustrated in a great degree, my hopes. The sufferings of my people have afflicted my heart. I have, however, beheld with emotion, that almost every where they have endured them with a touching resignation; and if, in some places, they have broken out into seditious acts, order was soon re-established. In order to mitigate the misfortunes of that period, I have found it necessary to make great efforts, and to draw upon the treasury for extraordinary sacrifices. The details will be laid before you, and the zeal with which you are animated for the public good will not permit me to doubt that these unforeseen expenses will have your sanction. The harvest of this year is more satisfactory over the greatest part of the kingdom; but, on the other hand, some local calamities, and the blights

which have fallen upon the vineyards, excite my paternal solicitude for privations which, without your co-operation, I cannot relieve.

I have ordered the budget of the charges of the financial year on which we are about to enter to be laid before you. If the expenses resulting from treaties, and from the deplorable war they have terminated, will not permit any immediate diminution of the taxes voted in preceding sessions, I have at least the satisfaction of thinking, that the economy I have prescribed will preclude the necessity of requiring any augmentation, and a vote of credit inferior to that of the last budget will suffice for all the wants of the year.

The conventions which I signed in 1815, in presenting results which could not then be foreseen, have rendered a new negotiation necessary. Every thing leads me to hope that its issue will be favourable, and that conditions far above our means will be replaced by others more conformable to equity, to moderation, and to the possibility of sacrifices, which my people support with a constancy that can add nothing to my love for them, but which give them new claims to my gratitude, and to the esteem of all nations.

Thus, as I had the happiness of announcing to you in the course of last session, the expenses resulting from the army of occupation are diminished a fifth, and the period is not far distant when we may be permitted to hope—thanks to the wisdom and energy of my government, to the love and confidence of my people, and to the friendship of my allies—that those

those expenses will entirely cease ; and that our country will resume among nations the rank and renown due to the valour of Frenchmen, and their noble attitude in adversity.

To attain this end, I shall more than ever stand in need of unanimity between the people and the throne ; of that vigour, without which authority is powerless. In proportion as that authority is strong, will the necessity be diminished of displaying itself in acts of severity. The manner in which the depositaries of my power have used what the laws intrusted to them have justified my confidence. However, I feel great satisfaction in announcing to you, that I do not consider it requisite to continue the Prevotal Courts beyond the term fixed for their existence by the law which established them.

I have digested, conformably to the charter, a law for recruiting. I wish that there should be no room left for invoking privileges ; that the spirit and dispositions of that charter, our true compass, which calls all Frenchmen indiscriminately to offices and employments, should not be illusory ; and that the soldier should find no other limits to his honourable career, than those of his talents and of his services. If the execution of this salutary law should demand an augmentation in the budget of the war minister, you, as the interpreters of the sentiments of my people, will not hesitate to sanction arrangements which secure to France that independence and that dignity, without which there can be neither king nor nation.

I have detailed to you our difficulties, and the measures which they require : in conclusion, I shall direct your attention to objects of a more pleasing description. Thanks to the peace restored to the church of France, religion, that eternal basis of all felicity even on earth, will, I doubt not, flourish amongst us ; tranquillity and confidence begin to re-appear ; public credit is consolidating ; agriculture, commerce, and industry, resume their activity ; new master-pieces of art excite admiration. One of my children is traversing, at this moment, a part of the kingdom ; and in return for sentiments so deeply engraven on his heart, and manifested by his conduct, he is every where greeted with benedictions ; while I, who have but one feeling—the happiness of my people ; who am desirous, for their good alone, of that authority which I shall defend from all attacks, of whatever kind—know that I am beloved by them, and find in my heart the assurance that this consolation will never fail me.

PROJECT OF A LAW FOR THE PRESS.

On Nov. 17th, Baron Pasquier, keeper of the seals, made a speech relative to the liberty of the press, introductory to the *project* of a law on the subject proposed by the King to the Chamber of Deputies, and contained in the following articles.

Louis, by the grace of God, &c.

We have ordained that the project of a law of the following tendency shall be presented in our name to the Chamber of Deputies,

ties, by our Keeper of the Seals, Minister Secretary of State for the Department of Justice, by our Minister of General Police, and by the Sieurs Ravez and Simeon, Counsellors of State.

Article I. The author, known and residing in France, of a printed work, is alone responsible for its contents.

2. The author, known and residing in France, of a printed translation of a work, is responsible for it.

3. The editor of a work of which the author has died before publication, or is not known, or is not resident in France, is responsible for it.

4. The printer is not responsible except when the author, the translator, or editor, are not known, or do not reside in France; or where the author or translator has not consented to the printing of the work.

5. If the author, the translator, the editor, or the printer of a work be not known, or do not reside in France, the bookseller, and all others who vend or distribute the said work, are responsible for it.

6. Nevertheless, the authors, translators, editors, and printers of a work, which would directly incite to crimes, and the booksellers, and all others, who sell or distribute it, are all equally responsible, and may be prosecuted at the same time for the said work.

7. A prosecution may be instituted for every work given to be printed in the two following cases:

1st. If the declaration prescribed by the law of the 4th of October, 1814, be not made.

2d. If the work, although the declaration be made, contains a direct incitement to crime.

8. Excepting these two cases, there can be no prosecution for a printed work, until a publication shall have taken place, and the distribution of the whole or of part of the work, or the deposit made in pursuance of the 14th article of the law of the 21st October, 1814, are considered a publication.

9. When a printed work shall have been seized by virtue of the 15th article of the 2d title of the law of the 21st October, 1814, the order of seizure, and the *proces verbal*, shall, under pain of nullity, be notified within 24 hours to the party on whom the seizure shall be made and transmitted, within the same time by the King's attorney to the Judge of Instruction.

10. If in three days from the notification of the *proces verbal*, and in case the distribution of all, or part of the work seized, may not have been made, the responsible accused person declares that he renounces the publication of it: and if he consents that all the copies of it shall be destroyed, the suppression of the work, and the destruction of the copies seized, and of all those which may be subsequently produced, shall be ordered by the tribunal, and the prosecution shall be no further continued, unless the printed work shall have directly provoked or excited to crimes.

11. The Judge of Instruction is bound, within eight days from the reception of the *proces verbal* of seizure, to make his report to the Chamber of the Council.

12. If

12. If the Chamber be of opinion that there is no cause for prosecution, it will decree the removal of the seizure, and the freedom of the accused should be arrested. In the contrary case, it orders, according to the importance of the facts, either that the affair should be sent to the Tribunal of the Correctional Police, or that the documents should be transferred to the King's Attorney-General, at the Royal Court, to be proceeded on as is laid down in the chapter of the Code of Criminal Instruction, entitled, The Trial of Accusations.

13. In default of judgment, which within three days from the report made by the Judge of Instruction, ordains the transmission of the affair to the Tribunal of Correctional Police, or of the documents to the Attorney-General, or in default of citation of the party seized, before the Tribunal of Correctional Police, within the same period: increased by a day in consequence of the three myriameters of distance, counting from the ordinance of transmission, the seizure is null and without effect. All the holders of the work seized, are bound to send it to the proprietor, on the simple exhibition of a certificate of the register, stating that there has been no judgment or citation in the time before-mentioned, which certificate will serve for a discharge.

14. The citation before the Tribunal of Correctional Police shall be in every case notified to the Register within three days from the ordinance of remission, and the cause shall be tried at the first audience after the expiration of

the delays prescribed by the 184th article of the Code of Criminal Instruction.

If the documents be sent to the Attorney-General, and that the Royal Court pronounces the accusation, the case shall be tried at the next assizes.

15. The act of accusation shall be closed by the following recapitulation:—"He is consequently accused of having committed by composition" [the translation or publication] "of" [such a writing] or "by the sale or distribution" [of such a writing, such and such a crime, attended with such and such circumstances.]

16. The questions resulting from the act of accusation shall be put in these terms:—1st. Does the printed work present such or such a character, expressed in the recapitulation of the act of accusation, with all the circumstances therein comprised? 2d. Is the accused guilty of having composed, translated, or published this work, or of having printed, or of having sold, or distributed it?

17. If the declaration of the jury be affirmative only on the first question, in the whole or in part, the seizure shall be maintained and the work condemned, and the accused shall be sentenced only to the costs.

18. The Correctional Tribunals may, in cases of the abuse of the liberty of the press, Command under security, the provisional freedom of the accused, conformably to the 11th article of the Code of Criminal Instruction. They may also use their discretion, even on the condemnation of a work, to pronounce only the payment of costs.

19. and 20.

19 and 20. [These articles extend to sentence pronounced against a work, and to all future impressions and publications of the same.]

21. In cases of crimes and misdemeanours, the annulling of the *proces verbal* of seizure for errors of forms, shall not be an obstacle to a farther prosecution of the work. It shall be the same with regard to the accused, if the facts imputed to him be otherwise proved by the process.

22 Every individual who feels himself aggrieved by the abuse of the liberty of the press, may prefer a complaint before the King's Attorney-General, or the Judge of Instruction, either in the place of his residence, if the work has been there sold or distributed, or from the place of the residence of the accused, or one of them.

23 and 24 refer to the jurisdiction of Courts.

25. The public action for an abuse of the liberty of the press is interdicted after the revolution of a year, reckoning from the day in which the writing shall have been deposited, in pursuance of the 14th Art. of the law of the 21st Oct 1814. The public action, if there has been no deposit, and the civil action, in all cases, are not prohibited until after the time appointed by the Code of Criminal Instruction.

26. The law of the 28th of February, 1817, relative to writings seized, and all the dispositions of anterior laws contrary to the present, are and remain repealed.

27. The journals and other periodical works which treat of poli-

tical subjects and intelligence, shall not, until the 1st of January, 1821, appear without the authority of the King.

(Signed)

LOUIS.

LAW FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION.

The important concern which had been agitated between the Papal court and that of Paris, relative to the establishment of the Catholic religion in the latter, was laid before the Chamber of Deputies by M. Laine, minister of the interior in the form of the *project* of a law proposed by the King in the following articles.

LOUIS, &c.

To all present and to come, greeting. We have ordained and do ordain, that the projet of the law, the tenour of which follows, shall be presented to the Chamber of Deputies by our Ministers Secretaries of State for the Department of Foreign Affairs, and of the Interior, by the Sieurs Count Beugnot, Minister of State, and Count Portalis, Counsellor of State, whom we charge to developpe its motives, and support its discussion:—

Article I — Conformably with the Concordat passed between Francis I. and Leo. X., the King alone appoints, by virtue of a right inherent in his crown, to the Archbishopricks and Bishopricks through the whole extent of his kingdom. The Bishops and Archbishops repair to the Pope to obtain canonical institution, according to the forms established by ancient usage.

II The concordat of the 15th July, 1801, ceases to have its effect from

from this day; saving, however, the effects which it has produced, and the disposition in article 13 of that act, which remains in its full force and vigour. [That article refers to the inviolability of the sales of church property.]

III. Seven new Archbishopricks, and 25 new Bishopricks, are erected. Two of the Episcopal Sees at present existing are erecting into Archiepiscopal Sees. The boundaries of the 50 Sees already existing, and those of the 32 recently created, are determined according to the tables annexed to the present law.

IV. The endowment of the Archbishopricks and Bishopricks shall be taken from the funds placed at the disposal of the King, by article 143 of the law of the 25th March last.

V. The bulls, briefs, decrees, and other acts, emanating from the Court of Rome, or produced under its authority, except the indulgences of the Penitentiary Court, so far alone as concerns the internal Ecclesiastical Court cannot be received, printed, published, or carried into execution in the kingdom, without the authority of the King.

VI. Such of those acts as concern the Universal Church, or the general interest of the state, or the church of France, their laws, their administration, or their doctrine, and which may necessitate or may induce some modifications in the legislation now existing, cannot be received, printed, published, or carried into execution in France, without having been duly verified by the two Chambers upon the proposal of the King.

VII. The said acts shall be inserted in the Bulletin of Laws, with the law or ordinance that has authorized the publication.

VIII. The cases of abuse specified in the Art. 6, and those of disturbance, provided for by Art. 7, of the law of 1802, shall be submitted directly to the Royal Courts, the first Civil Chamber, on the information of our attornies-general, or on the prosecution of the parties interested.

The Royal Courts shall decide in all cases not provided for by the codes, conformably with the regulations anciently observed in the kingdom, saving appeal to the Court of Cassation.

IX. All persons in holy orders approved by their Bishops, who may be charged with crimes or offences, either out of their functions or in the exercise of their functions, shall be proceeded against according to the dispositions of Art. 10 of the law of the 20th April, 1810, and the Articles 479 and 480 of the Criminal Code of Instruction.

X. The Bulls given at Rome the 19th (1st) and 27th (2d) of July, the former containing the ratification of the Convention passed the 11th June last, between the King and his Holiness; the second, concerning the boundaries of the dioceses of the kingdom, are received, and shall be published without the approbation of clauses, formulas, and expressions which they contain, and which are or may be contrary to the laws of the realm, the liberties, franchises, and maxims of the Gallican Church.

XI. In no case shall the said receptions

receptions and publications prejudice the dispositions of the present law—the public rights of the French, guaranteed by the Constitutional Charter—the maxims, franchises, and liberties of the Gallican Church—the laws and regulations concerning ecclesiastical affairs, and the laws con-

cerning the administration of religious persuasions, not Catholic.

Given at the Castle of the Tuileries, the 22d November, in the year of our Lord 1817, and of our reign the 23d.

(Signed)

LOUIS.

CHAPTER XI.

Spain.—Disturbance in Valencia.—Edict prohibiting Books.—Conspiracy in Barcelona.—Castanos and his Accomplices condemned.—Papal Bull respecting the Property of the Church in Spain.—Queen of Etruria.—Decree relative to the Culture of Tobacco in the Havannah.—Abolition of the Slave Trade.—Portugal.—Irruption of its Army into Montevideo.—Part taken by the allied Powers.—Defection of Pernambuco, and its Reduction.—Plot in Portugal.

SPAIN.

THE following letter, dated from Murcia, on the 5th of February, contains an account of a disturbance which took place in Valencia on January 17th.

“The 17th ult. was a day of judgment in Valencia. The people daringly rose against General Elio; and if divine Providence had not taken pity on that afflicted district, we know not to what lengths the wild monster the mob (which a people are when given up to their own violence) would have proceeded. These turbulent habits have been contracted by past events, when the Liberales flattered the people that they were going to destroy all the authority of rank and power. The people are like children; they never forget the indulgence allowed them. The tumult took its origin in a foolish dispute about the tax on coals. General Elio, who allows no one to dispute his commands, found it necessary to exert his authority against certain persons who called themselves the deputies of the people; and thus was kindled that fire which had nearly involved in flame the whole capital of the province. The power of the insurgents rose to such a height, that the city was in their

possession during the whole of the 17th. Elio had the prudence to leave the rabble to itself. The people had the insolence to raise the cry of the *constitution*; and offered a thousand insults to the general and the troops. I have the satisfaction, however, to tell you, that none but the rabble took any part in the disturbance: the gentlemen and men of property remained in their houses. At last the army triumphed; and General Elio is about to make terrible examples. The judges of the audience entered into disputes with his Excellency concerning the limits of jurisdiction between the civil and military authority; and Elio, who knows well his duty, immediately set out to Madrid to obtain from his Majesty full powers to hang, if it be found necessary, the members of the court itself. One soldier was killed: on the side of the people many were wounded. General Elio was wounded, but not severely.”

The following proclamation was subjoined to this letter.

The Captain-General of the provinces of Valencia and Murcia, to whom is intrusted the preservation of the public tranquillity, desirous to fulfil his duty, and to protect

protect the peace of these districts, commands as follows :

1. According to the proclamation of the 20th of March, and the 4th of December last, that every person bearing arms without licence be treated with rigour if found with arms either about his person or in his house ; let him suffer the punishment which the law decrees to such an offence.

2. After dusk, and within the city, no person shall dare to go armed, except the patrol appointed to preserve the public peace, military officers, noblemen, and persons who are privileged by their rank of cavaliers *de espada* or *sable*. If any other persons are found with arms, defend themselves, or fly at the name of the King, the patrol shall be authorized to fire upon them, or to pursue and apprehend them. If when so apprehended and imprisoned, it shall appear that they attempted to make resistance, they shall be hanged within twelve hours afterwards. Against this sentence there shall be no appeal, whatever be their excuse or numbers.

3. A thousand reals shall be given as a reward to those who shall inform against any of the authors of the late disturbances.

From the apparently guarded manner in which this letter is expressed, and especially the hint given respecting the dispute between the civil and military authorities, it may be conjectured that the disturbance was of greater consequence than it appears to have been.

EDICT PROHIBITING BOOKS.

An edict prohibiting books was

published at Madrid on the 2d of March. These books are divided into two principal classes: in the first are included those which are prohibited even to those individuals to whom the Holy Office allows particular licences or permissions: the other class comprehends works which are forbidden only to those who have never obtained any licence.

The works of the first class are eight in number: they are prohibited as defamatory of the supreme authority of the Roman Pontiff, and of the ecclesiastical authority; as containing propositions scandalous, impious, false, seditious, rash, erroneous, blasphemous, schismatic, heretical, and injurious to the Roman Pontiff, to the Bishops, and to the Holy Tribunal of the Inquisition: conducive to error, superstitious, ridiculous, contrary to the sacred Canons, to the evangelical doctrine, and to the example of Jesus Christ.

Although by the edict of the 18th of August, 1762, the Works of Voltaire were prohibited even to those who had obtained regular licenses; and although, according to the rule established on this point, works prohibited in one language ought to be equally prohibited in another; it has been thought convenient to renew the prohibition of the *Henriade*, translated into Spanish verse by Drs. D. Pedro Bazar and Mendoza, with the prologue, printed at Alais (Gard) in the year 1816.

The prohibition of the second class falls on forty-seven works, as containing a corrupt and revolutionary spirit, propositions injurious to the Holy Office and to the
Clergy,

Clergy, calumnious against true religion, blasphemous, tending to idolatry, injurious to Ferdinand VII. subversive of the monarchical Government, incentive of rebellion against legitimate Sovereigns, injurious to the doctrine of the holy sacrament, and filled with satires against husbands fond of their wives.

In this second class are included the following works: Principle of Policy, applicable to all representative Governments, &c. by M. Benjamin de Constant, Counsellor of State; as containing maxims and propositions false in politics, and to the hierarchical order; contrary to the spirit of religion; captious, subversive of the power of the Church; anti-dogmatic, tending to schism and to religious toleration, and pernicious to the State.—(Literal translation.)

Felix and Paulina; or, The Tomb of Mont-jura, by P. Blanchard, translated into Spanish.

Elements of the Rights of Nations; by Lacroix, translated into Spanish; as containing propositions inconsonant, subversive of good order, false, reprobate, injurious against the holy office, and contrary to the rights of the church and of the sovereign.

The Comedy Les Visitandines; an opera, in two acts, and in verse, translated into Spanish.

The Cousin of Mahomet; printed at Constantinople, as being indecent.

Adele and Theodore, or Letters on Education: printed at London, in French, without the name of the author; as containing propositions inconsonant, captious, false, tending to error, and exciting bad ideas.

The Apostolic Inquisitors of er-

ror, depravity, and apostacy, wishing, by virtue of the apostolic, royal, and ordinary authority with which they are invested, to prevent the evil which might result from the reading of the works contained in this edict, hereby ordain their prohibition; and that those which are already distributed over the nation shall be collected: they also expressly forbid the reading, selling, or keeping in possession, these books.

CONSPIRACY IN BARCELONA.

On April the 5th a plan was laid for a conspiracy in the city of Barcelona, which, from the persons engaged in it, had the appearance of a deeply laid plan for effecting some important change in the state. The purpose was no less than the re-establishment of the Cortes and the constitution; and the principal persons concerned were the generals Lacy and Milans, who had distinguished themselves in the late war against the usurpation of Buonaparte. Just before its intended eruption, the government obtained knowledge of the design; and the Captain-gen. of the province made public the following account of the transaction:—

“A horrible conspiracy, which appears to have been formed by individuals of different classes, and in which are implicated Generals Lacy and Milans, who, at a former period had rendered signal services to their country, was to be executed on the 5th at night. The object of the conspirators was to overturn the government, to restore the abolished constitution, and to deprive me of the authority entrusted to me by the King. But the energetic measures I adopted

adopted at the moment when, by the particular favour of Providence, I had the first news of the conspiracy, have defeated the vain projects of the seditious. Pursued on all sides, the greater part of those whom public notoriety had marked as guilty, have been arrested. The most active search will soon discover their accomplices. Those who have fled to the mountains, and have found there a temporary asylum, have been traced with so speedy a step that they must be overtaken. In the midst of the painful sentiments which have afflicted my mind during these days of trouble, I have had the consolation to see the inhabitants of Barcelona, and those of the rest of the province, not only renounce all alliance with the traitors, but testify a just indignation against them, and enter with zeal into the execution of those orders which have been issued to apprehend and punish the guilty. The conduct of the troops and of their officers has been equally praiseworthy. The discipline of all the corps has shown itself to be deserving of the highest credit. Two companies only of the battalion of the light infantry of Tarragona have been deceived and seduced by the second in command, Don Joseph Quer. No other officer has taken part in the disaffection, which lasted only for a few hours.

“Such was the foundation of the foolish hopes of those wretched persons, who, in spite of all their efforts, have not succeeded in interrupting for a moment the public tranquillity.

“There is no longer any subject for alarm. All the first authorities of the province have pressed

forward to co-operate with the arrangements made by me to assure the good order of the state, and to fulfil the good wishes of the King. I announce with satisfaction to the whole province and to the army, that the conspiracy having been discovered, and the principal actors in it having been arrested or pursued, there no longer remains any cause of alarm: and the conspirators only await the punishment which the laws shall award to such criminals, after the result of legal proceedings, which have been already commenced, and which will not be of long duration.

“XAVIER CASTANOS.

“*Barcelona, April 12, 1817.*”

General Lacy, with his principal accomplices, was capitally condemned by a court martial assembled near the end of April at Barcelona. Gen. Milans had not yet been apprehended. The project of an insurrection seems to have been more extensive than at first appeared; and it is asserted that three hundred officers were arrested at the same time with Lacy as participators in his designs.

Lacy, after his capture, was taken over to Majorca, probably to prevent any designs in his favour. On arriving there, it was uncertain whether he would have undergone the punishment of death, or have been indulged with a commutation; but finding himself upon the beach with only his escort, he attempted to make his escape by flight. The soldiers pursued him, and in striving to defend himself, he was killed.

PAPAL BULL.

A bull published by the Pope in the month of April, which respects the property of the church in Spain, affords

affords a strong proof of the accumulation of wealth in that class, and of the necessity under which the state labours. It is of the following tenor.

“ Pius, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God.

“ The Roman Pontiffs, incited by their paternal love for the whole Catholic flock, have never suffered the Apostolic benignity to be accused of having refused, in seasons of distress, to furnish assistance to the necessities of the State, even from the patrimony of the Church.

“ Our dearly beloved Son in Jesus Christ, Ferdinand, Catholic King of Spain, intimately united by the bonds of love and veneration to us, and the Holy Apostolic See, in his present painful circumstances; being well persuaded that God has committed to the Clergy alone, the care of managing the property of the Church, as had been clearly and unanimously published in the declaration of the Fathers assembled in Roman Council, under the Pontiff Symmachus; this Prince has solicited the necessary power for the purpose of meeting the necessities of his treasury, occasioned by the general agitation of affairs. And as the means and fortunes of the laity are already oppressed with charges, by reason of which the said King Ferdinand has not ventured to make new demands, he has thought proper to require an annual sum of 30,000,000 reals, money of that country, on ecclesiastical property, for only six years, in which time the number of pensions will be diminished, and the value of the revenues augmented.

“ In consequence, we, with the

good-will wherewith we are animated in favour of the said King Ferdinand, have admitted the supplications he had addressed to us, and which have been presented to us by our dear son the Chevalier Antonio de Vargas y Laguna, his Minister Plenipotentiary: yielding to these supplications, and considering the enormous expenses at the price of which we have had the satisfaction of seeing an extremely glorious victory obtained, as well for religion as the monarchy, and in regard to the calamity of the times, we have resolved, for the weighty causes now enumerated, to modify the dispositions of the Holy Canons.

“ Thus, from our certain knowledge, and after mature consideration, making use of the plenitude of the Apostolic power with which we are invested, we grant by these presents to the said King Ferdinand an *indulto*, that validly, freely, and lawfully, he may, during the space of six years, exact, but only for the purpose of succouring the royal treasure, the extraordinary subsidy of 30,000,000 reals from all the property, fruits, rents, and products, of the Clergy, as well regular as secular.

“ By these presents we commission and authorize our dear Sons, the Prelates, &c. &c.

“ Let no one dare then to oppose the execution of our present act of concession, power, *indulto*, commission, mandate, establishment, declaration, derogation, and will. And if any one have the temerity to commit such an attempt, let him know that he incurs the indignation of the All Mighty God, and of the most blessed Saint Peter and Saint Paul, his apostles.

“ Done

“Done at Rome at Saint Peter, the 16th of April, in the year of the Incarnation of our Saviour, 1817, and of our Pontificate the 18th.”

QUEEN OF ETRURIA.

It had been mentioned in our historical report of the year before last, that certain reclamations had been made on the allied powers relative to the claims of the Queen of Etruria, and her son the infant Don Carlos Louis, in respect to the duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastalla. King Ferdinand was now enabled to settle this important affair, and at the same time to announce the incorporation of Spain to the grand European alliance, by the following official article.

“The King, on being restored to the throne of his ancestors, could not fail to take the deepest interest in the glory of a crown which Providence had preserved for him, in reward of the generous efforts and heroic constancy of his subjects. His cares were constantly directed to the re-establishment of order, and for the purpose of repairing the evils of a devastating war. Nevertheless his Majesty could not be satisfied unless he fully co-operated with the other Powers of Europe in fixing the basis of a general peace, destined henceforth to secure their repose, and the sacred immunity of their rights. This great work, which was intended to be the result of the labours of the congress united for that purpose, presented, however, in its execution those obstacles which were the immediate effect of the general confusion into which tyranny and power had thrown the interests of the different nations; and the fate of the Infanta, the

Queen of Etruria, was connected with these interests. The King, her august brother, therefore, could not regard with indifference an object so essential and so worthy of his policy.

“Don Pedro Gomez de Labrador, his Majesty’s Plenipotentiary to the Congress, conformably to his instructions, endeavoured to fix the lot of the Queen of Etruria, and to regulate other points connected with the rights of her Majesty, exerting for that object his talents and information in so far as circumstances permitted. Finally, the Duke of Casa Fernan Nunez, his Majesty’s Ambassador at Paris, having been charged to continue this important negotiation, has succeeded in bringing it to a happy termination. His activity and zeal for the honour of the King have procured his Majesty the satisfaction of seeing this affair concluded by solemn treaties entered into with the said great Powers, and signed at Paris on the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th of last June. By one of these treaties, his Majesty accedes to the acts of the celebrated congress at Vienna, and Spain is incorporated with the great European confederacy. Another treaty sanctions the reversion of the Duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastalla, in favour of his Serene Highness the Infant Don Carlos Louis; and the surrender of the states of Lucca, with the stipulated assignments, until the said reversion takes place, in favour of her Majesty the Serene Infanta of Spain, Queen of Etruria, and mother of the Infant Don Carlos Louis.

Thus is terminated an affair equally complicated and essential to the high policy of his Majesty, and

and whose paternal solicitude it has constantly occupied since the year 814.

DECREE RELATIVE TO TOBACCO.

The Madrid Gazette of July the 3d, contains a long decree respecting the culture of tobacco at the Havannah. This article has been long subject to a monopoly exercised in the name of the government; which at length proceeded to such a degree of abuse, that the whole manufacture of tobacco in the island of Cuba, noted for producing it in the greatest abundance, and of the best quality, was likely to become a mere object for home consumption. The king, at the instance of M. Garay, minister of finance, has given almost full liberty to every branch of agriculture and industry connected with this product; and the exportation of the tobacco of the Havannah to all foreign countries will be permitted, provided it be in Spanish vessels.

ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE.

The king of Spain has at length published an edict for the abolition of the slave trade throughout his dominions, to commence north of the line immediately, and south of the line on the 30th of May, 1820. After an exculpatory report respecting all previous traffic of this kind, which is said to have increased prodigiously the number of indigenous as well as of free negroes, his Majesty proceeds to say, that "Having collected all these copious materials, and having examined the proposition which the proper supreme tribunal laid before me in its deliberation of the 15th of February, 1816, answering to the confidence which I re-

pose in it, and coinciding with its opinion respecting the abolition of the traffic in slaves, and co-operating with the King of Great Britain by a solemn treaty, embracing all the points of reciprocal interest involved in this important transaction, and determining that the time for the abolition was arrived, the interests of my American States being duly reconciled with the sentiments of my royal mind, and the wishes of all the Sovereigns, my friends and allies, I have decreed as follows:—

Art. 1.—From this day forward I prohibit all my subjects, both in the Peninsula and in America, from going to buy negroes on the coasts of Africa, north of the line. The negroes who may be bought on the said coasts shall be declared free in the first port of my dominions, at which the ship in which they are transported shall arrive. The ship itself, together with the remainder of its cargo, shall be confiscated to the Royal Treasury, and the purchaser, the captain, the master, and pilot shall be irrevocably condemned to 10 years' transportation to the Philippines.

Art. 2.—The above punishment does not attach to the trader, the captain, the master, and pilot of the vessels, which may sail from any port of my dominions, for the coasts of Africa, north of the line, before the 22d of November of the present year; to which I grant, besides, an extension of six months, counting from the above date, to complete their expedition.

Article 3.—From the 30th of May, 1820, I equally prohibit all my subjects, as well in the Peninsula as in America, from going to purchase negroes along those parts of the coast of Africa which are to
the

the south of the line, under the same penalties imposed in the first article of this decree: allowing likewise the space of five months from the above date to complete the voyages that may be undertaken before the above-mentioned 30th of May, in which the traffic in slaves shall cease in all my dominions, as well in Spain as in America.

Art. 4.—Those who, using the permission which I grant till the 30th of May, 1820, to purchase slaves, on that part of the coast of Africa which lies south of the Line, shall not be allowed to carry more slaves than five to two tons of the tonnage of their vessel: and any persons contravening this enactment shall be subjected to the penalty of losing all the slaves on board, who shall be declared free at the first port of my dominions in which the ship arrives.

Art. 5.—This computation is made without a reference to those who may be born during the voyage, or to those who may be serving on board as sailors or servants.

Art. 6.—Foreign vessels which may import negroes into any port of my dominions shall be subjected to the regulations prescribed in this decree; and in case of contravening them, shall be subjected to the penalties contained in it.

And my royal pleasure being, that the above decree should circulate in my dominions of America and Asia, for its punctual observance I communicated it to my supreme council of the Indies, signed with my own hand, under date of the 22d of September last past; I therefore command all my viceroys, presidents, audiences, commanders, general governors, and

intendants of the Indies, the adjacent islands, the Philippines, that they keep, fulfil, execute and cause to be kept, fulfilled, &c. this my decree," &c.

Madrid, Dec. 1817.

PORTUGAL.

The union, during the last year of the kingdoms of Portugal and Brazil, with the decided preference shown by the sovereign of the two countries to his transatlantic possessions, has conferred upon the latter at least an equal title to dominion; for which reason we shall henceforth consider them as indivisibly united under a single crown.

The irruption of a Portuguese army from Brazil, into Montevideo, was mentioned among the events of the concluding month of the last year. In January two proclamations were issued to the Spanish inhabitants; one of them by Carlos Frederico Le Cor, lieutenant-general of the army of his most Faithful Majesty, addressing the people of Montevideo, and promising to them the guarantee of their property, and a free trade with all nations, in the name of the king of Portugal; another from Sebastian Pintos de Arango Correa, governor of Montevideo, and superintendant of the provinces on the east side of the river Plate, decreeing severe punishment against all who shall insult another for his former political opinions, and assuring every individual, whatever public office he may have held under the different governments, of perfect security under the protection of the Portuguese army.

The conduct of the Brazilian government did not fail, however, of

of drawing the attention of the great powers of Europe, who thought themselves bound to interpose in favour of Spain, who was little able to protect itself from hostile aggression. Accordingly, the several courts of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, presented a note to the Marquis d'Aguiar, secretary of state to his most Faithful Majesty, to the following effect.

Paris, March 16.

The occupation of a part of the Spanish possessions on the river Plate by the Portuguese troops of Brazil was no sooner known in Europe, than it was the object of official and simultaneous steps taken by the cabinet of Madrid, with the courts of Vienna, Paris, London, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, in order to protest solemnly against this occupation, and to claim their support against such an aggression.

Perhaps the Court of Madrid might have thought herself entitled to recur at once to the means of defence which Providence has placed in her hands, and to repel force by force: but, guided by a spirit of wisdom and moderation, she was desirous first of employing the means of negotiation and persuasion, and she preferred, notwithstanding the disadvantage that might result to her possessions beyond sea, addressing herself to the five undermentioned powers, in order to an amicable adjustment of her differences with the court of Brazil, and to avoid a rupture, the consequences of which might be equally disastrous to the two countries, and might disturb the repose of both hemispheres.

So noble a resolution could not

but meet with the entire approbation of the cabinets to which the court of Spain has addressed herself: and animated with the desire of preventing the fatal consequences that might result from the present state of affairs, the courts of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia, and Russia, equally the friends of Portugal and Spain, after having taken into consideration the just claims of the latter power, have charged the undersigned to make known to the cabinet of his most faithful Majesty—

That they have accepted the mediation demanded of them by Spain.

That they have seen with real pain, and not without surprise, that at the very moment when a double marriage seemed to bind more closely the family ties already existing between the houses of Braganza and Bourbon, and when such an alliance was to render the relations between the two countries more intimate and more friendly, Portugal has invaded the Spanish possessions on the river Plate, and invaded them without any explanation whatever, and without any previous declaration.

That the principles of equity and justice which direct the councils of the five courts, and the firm resolution they have adopted to preserve, as much as is in their power, the peace of the world, purchased by such great sacrifices, have determined them to take cognizance and part in this affair, in the intention of terminating it in the most equitable manner, and most conformable to their desire of maintaining the general tranquillity.

That the said courts do not dis-
semble

semble that a difference between Portugal and Spain might disturb that peace, and occasion a war in Europe, which might be not only disastrous to the two countries, but incompatible with the interests and the tranquillity of other powers.

That in consequence they have resolved to make known to the government of his Most Faithful Majesty their sentiments on this subject, to invite him to furnish sufficient explanations upon his views, to take the most prompt and proper measures to dissipate the just alarms which his invasion of the American possessions of Spain has already caused in Europe, and to satisfy the rights claimed by the latter power, as well as those principles of justice and impartiality which guide the mediators. A refusal to yield to such just demands would leave no doubt with respect to the real intentions of the cabinet of Rio Janeiro. The disastrous effects that might result to the two hemispheres would be imputed entirely to Portugal; and Spain, after having seen all Europe applaud her wise and moderate conduct, would find in the justice of her cause, and in the support of her allies, sufficient means of redressing her complaints.

The undersigned, in acquitting themselves of the orders of their courts, have the honour to offer to his Excellency the Marquis d'Aguiar the assurance of their high consideration.

(Signed) VINCENT,
RICHELIEU,
STUART,
GOLTZ,
POZZO DI BORGHIO.

The manner in which the court

of Madrid received this intelligence may be conjectured from the following announcement in the Gazette of Madrid, on the date of May 13.

Letters from Gibraltar announce that the Portuguese army of Rio Janeiro has possessed itself of the fortress of Monte Video, which has for a long time groaned under the tyrannical yoke of the insurgents. Whatever truth there may be in this intelligence, the federative system, whose object it is to secure the peace of Europe, the intimate union of the king our master with all the other sovereigns, the wisdom of the measures taken by his majesty to support the honour of his throne and the inviolability of his states, the noble sentiments of the king of Portugal, and the new ties that have more intimately connected together the two august houses—all these considerations taken together, excite a hope that the public, in learning this intelligence, instead of feeling any disquietude, will wait with entire confidence the issue of an event which has become the object of paternal solicitude to a Prince who equally loves all his subjects.

Before this period, however, an event took place on the Brazilian territories which proved that the signal of revolt had extended to a portion of that country.

In the government of Pernambuco, the governor, on the 5th of March, after having expressed much affection to the people of the place, privately drew up a list of persons proscribed in his secret cabinet, which included the most spirited youths of the country, as well as some of the bravest officers of the army.

army. On the following day this order was to be put in execution; and the prisons were thrown open for the reception of the most determined leaders of the intended conspiracy. Of these, the Brazilian officers of the regiments of Olinda and Recife were the most distinguished. Several of these were apprehended; but a colonel, going first to the barracks for the purpose of executing the order, was killed by one of his own captains. An aide-de-camp of the governor met with the same fate; and the whole of the regiments sided with their officers. The governor with his personal staff and a few other officers quitted the town, and retired to Fort Bran, at a short distance. On the following day the fort was delivered up without resistance, and the governor with his officers were made prisoners, and shipped for Rio Janeiro.

This insurrection was limited to the district of Pernambuco; and its triumph only lasted till a body of troops could be drawn together capable of resisting it. On May 12th, intelligence reached Serinhaem that the insurgents intended to attack the advanced guard of the royal army, posted near the works of Civiro Cavalcante. The army in consequence marched, and took up its positions in the works of Pendoba Grande and Peguena. On the 15th Major Salvador marched with a force destined to occupy the Pojuca, which he accomplished, but was exposed to all the fire of the enemy. At half-past five in the afternoon the main body of the army arrived, and came to action in a place called Guerra. The firing

began with the artillery, and the action lasted till night, in the course of which the insurgents dispersed, and were pursued by several royal detachments. In the morning were found on the field of battle five pieces of cannon, a carronade, quantities of ammunition and provision, and the military chest with nearly a million of reis. Many prisoners were taken, and great numbers were killed and wounded, of whom a considerable part were officers.

After this action, intelligence having been received that the insurgent Martins was advancing at the head of a column on Serinhaem, a body of troops under the command of a captain of militia was sent against him, which completely routed his force, taking many prisoners, among whom was Martins himself, the celebrated leader of the revolution.

Not long after the intelligence had been received of the entire defeat of the insurrection in Brazil, a plot was discovered for effecting a revolution in Portugal, the purpose of which was to make an entire change in the government. On the first of June, Lisbon was made acquainted with the nature and extent of this conspiracy, which we shall communicate in the words of the public paper in which it appeared.

“The governor of Portugal having been informed that there existed a conspiracy in the country, whose object was to overthrow the government, and to substitute for it a revolutionary government; and that, in order to attain their object, the conspirators employed such means as they thought most calculated to mislead the national

national mind, by transforming into proofs of his Majesty's intention to abandon Portugal all those political events which had occurred for some time, and the popular rumours consequent upon them: and his excellency having learnt from some of the accomplices, that at the head of this infernal plot was the Lieut.-Gen. Gomez Freire de Andrade, aided by the Baron d'Eben, and that they altogether had directed, and continued to direct, all their efforts to seduce all they could of the troops and other classes of the inhabitants: and as it was no longer possible to doubt the existence of a plot after the fortunate seizure of some proclamations, all ready printed, in the name of a self-styled regenerating council (such was their assumed title); in consideration of these discoveries, the

governors of the kingdom conceived that they owed it to the monarch who had intrusted them with the government of the kingdom, to the inhabitants themselves, to their own characters, and to the preservation of public order, to prevent without delay those consequences with which all were threatened; and it was with this object that their excellencies determined to arrest, without loss of time, on the night between the 25th and 26th of May, not only the two general officers before named, but other persons also who were known to be acquainted and implicated in the horrible project. All possible efforts were made to learn every circumstance, and to procure every proof, in order to proceed forthwith according to law, to execute justice on the guilty.

CHAPTER XII.

Russia.—*Regulation for the Discharge of the Public Debt.*—*Facilities granted to Mercantile Men.*—*The Emperor quits his Capital, having first published a Decree for the Regulation of Proprietors and Colonists.*—*Sweden.*—*Conspiracy against the Crown Prince, and his Address to the Citizens of Stockholm.*—*Proclamation by the King respecting Economy.*—*His Address to Prince Oscar.*—*Speech read by the Prince.*—*Vienna.*—*Berlin.*

RUSSIA.

A NEW regulation has lately been published at Petersburg by the committee created in 1810, for the discharge of the public debt of the state. The ukase of his Majesty the Emperor which accompanies it is of the following tenor.

“We, Alexander I. by the grace of God, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, &c. &c.

“The measures announced by the ukases of 1810 and 1812, for the successive payment of the debts of the state were suspended by the events of a war, as fatal in its origin, as glorious in its result: the taxes which were decreed solely for this purpose were diverted from it by the indispensable necessity of employing them towards the expences which the defence of the country required. It was impossible, amidst the rapid course of military events, to think of raising the credit of the state; the system of which had not yet been able to consolidate itself: all that could be done was to maintain it. By the aid of the Almighty, this war has been concluded without an augmentation of the taxes,

and without having injured the public credit. Now that peace is restored, finding that the gradual extinction of the debts of the empire is as necessary to the general welfare, as indispensable to strengthen the confidence in the engagements of the government, we have ordered our Minister of Finance to present to the Council of State, for its examination, a plan for additional measures, which shall complete the regulations made on this subject; and after having examined it, with the advice of the Council of State, we have thought fit to ordain what follows:

1. For the payment of the debts of the state, the imperial treasury shall, in the course of the present year, place at the disposal of the committee for the payment of the debt, the sum of forty millions of roubles.

2. Dating from the year 1818 there shall be annually assigned for the same object sixty millions out of the revenues of the domains of the crown, till the total extinction of the debts, and till the mass of paper currency shall be reduced to the proportion of what is requisite for circulation.

3. The

3. The principles lately adopted, and lately completed, to make a foundation for the extinction of the debts of the state, are laid down in the general regulation of the committee of the sinking fund, which we have confirmed. This regulation is to be carried into full effect from the first of September in this year.

4. As all the debts of the government are concentrated in the committee of the sinking fund, all the branches of the administration are expressly prohibited, from this day forward, from making by themselves new debts under any pretext whatever, and this under the personal responsibility of those who are at the head of them; but if there should arise in future some unforeseen circumstances which would make it necessary to open a loan to cover extraordinary demands, exceeding the usual resources of the public treasury, in this case the loan cannot be made except in conformity with the principles laid down in the regulation of the said committee.

Given at Petersburg,

April 16, 1817.

A subsequent operation of the imperial court was for the purpose of extending the facilities of mercantile men in their several dealings. The Emperor Alexander, in a paper dated from Petersburg May 7th, gives the following notice:

Desiring to afford to the merchants greater means for the facilitating and extending their commercial operations, we have thought fit, instead of the new existing discount bank, whose influence, on account of the smallness of its capital, and the several defects observed in its constitution, is of no visible use; to establish an

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Imperial Commercial Bank. In consequence of this resolution, we have commissioned the minister of finance to lay before the council of state, for its consideration, all the plans necessary to be prepared on this subject. Now, having taken the advice of our council of state, we decree as follows:

I. Thirty millions of rubles of the capital of the crown are placed at the disposal of the Commercial Bank. [Here follows the statement of the items of which this capital is to be formed.]

II. The Commercial Bank is to be allowed to take money, 1. On interest for circulation, according to the same principles as in the loan bank. 2. To deposit and transfer from one person to another the sums inscribed by private persons, according to the book of the bank.

III. The Commercial Bank gives loans on Russian goods, according to the principles of the discount office, and accepts bills, but in this case taking the percentage according to the course of commercial operations.

IV. Half of the directors to consist of public officers, and half of merchants.

V. The Commercial Bank shall be opened on the first of January next year.

VI. At the same time we hereby issue the regulations of the Commercial Bank, confirmed by us: we take it under our protection, and guarantee with our imperial word the integrity of the capitals which shall be intrusted to it by private persons; as also that the rights of every person to the same shall remain inviolate. With the opening of the Commercial Bank, we shall not fail to increase

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the resources of the loan bank, and to regulate it in a manner suitable to its destination, in order, by the united influence of those establishments on the strengthening of private credit, to contribute to the extension of agriculture, of industry, and of commerce, and in general to the advantage of our dearly beloved country, in whose prosperity we place the reward of our exertions and our glory.

ALEXANDER.

It was announced in the month of August, that the Emperor was preparing to quit his capital on the first of September. His absence was intended to be from fifteen to sixteen months. His Majesty was first to proceed to Witepsk, in order to inspect the troops of General Barclay de Tolly; whence he was to arrive at Moscow in November. Remaining in that quarter till June, he was then to visit the southern provinces of his empire. From Astracan he was to go to the Crimea, and inspect the troops of General Bennigsen; and then cross into Germany, to assist at the assembly fixed by the allied sovereigns in 1815, to be held either at Frankfort on the Maine, or at Aix-la-Chapelle. After paying a visit to Warsaw, he was to return to Petersburg.

Before the Emperor's quitting Russia he published the following ukase concerning the settling of foreign colonists in the country.

1. Not only every noble proprietor, but every individual who, according to the decree of the 12th of December 1801, has the power of acquiring land by purchase or other title, may invite foreign cultivators.

2. That these colonists, who are ignorant of our laws and language, may not incur the danger of contracting too onerous engagements, and that, on the other hand, the proprietors may not be exposed to the exaggerated pretensions of the former, we ordain that all contracts made between them, and founded on principles already existing and authorized, shall, after being examined by the competent authority, be submitted to the revision of the Minister of the Interior, who is charged with the duty of watching over the colonists in general, and is required in particular to protect against every kind of vexation those who are established on the lands of the nobility.

3. These contracts are not to exceed the term of twenty years. They must clearly specify the conditions to which planters submit, as well as the annual rent which they engage to pay to the landlord in money or kind.

4. The reciprocal payments which at the term of the contract shall be exigible by the consent of the contracting parties, on the supposition that then the planter quits the land, or the proprietor refuses to retain him, shall be determined with clearness and precision.

5. On the death of the proprietor, his contracts shall be binding on his heirs, who shall not have the power of making changes, except with the consent of the planters, and the permission of the authorities.

6. The planters who may be established on the lands of the nobility shall enjoy during their residence in Russia a full and entire liberty of conscience, and shall be

be exempt from all civil and military service, except by their own consent.

SWEDEN.

In the month of March a conspiracy was formed against the life of the Crown Prince, the particular purpose of which appears little understood, though it cannot be doubted that the focus of it was chiefly among the nobility. The prince, however, met with the warmest attachment from the general representatives of the nation, and from the citizens of Stockholm; and his answer to an address presented by the latter deserves attention, from the spirit by which it is distinguished. The following were some of the most remarkable passages.

“For some months loose reports have been circulated in the country. Sometimes they said that the king was dead; then my son was dying; then my life was in danger: this was done to alarm the country. Some later denunciations have attracted the attention of the police and the government. Judicial inquiries are instituted; and the criminals, or the false informers, will be punished. I could forgive the authors of these reports if they only aimed at my life; but they seek to overturn your liberty, your constitution, your national honour; in short, every thing that is most sacred to the honest citizen.

“They have ventured to mix the names of a family which you have excluded from the throne. You know yourselves, Gentlemen, that I did not cause their fate. When, in the distressed state to which a series of misfortunes had reduced you, you cast your eyes

on such princes as were known by the services they had done to their country, and your choice was fixed on me; I resolved to accept it. The very idea of the dangers that surrounded you, made me feel myself greater, and capable of the mightiest plans to merit your confidence. For you I consented to renounce the pleasures and tranquillity of private life, to which I had destined the rest of my days. I gave myself wholly up to a people once so renowned, then so unhappy. I came among you, and brought, as title and pledge, my sword and my deeds. If I could have brought you a series of ancestors from the time of Charles Martel I could have wished it only on your account: for myself, I am equally proud of the service I have done, and of the glory which has raised me. These pretensions are still increased by the king's adoption, and the unanimous choice of a free people. On these I found my rights; and as long as honour and justice are not banished from this earth, these rights must be more legal and sacred than if I had descended from Odin. History shows that no prince ever mounted a throne except by the choice of the people, or by conquest. I did not open a way to the Swedish succession by arms: the free choice of the nation called me; and this is the right on which I lean. Remember our condition at my arrival, and see what we are now. There are ill-disposed men in all countries; but in Sweden their number is so small, that no extraordinary measures are necessary to repress them.

“The interior peace of the country is undisturbed: from without there is nothing to fear

We do not meddle with the concerns of other countries, and are certain that they will not meddle with ours. Your rights are therefore secured within and without; and every thing announces, that we shall not for a long time be obliged to defend them: but should the honour of the nation require it, I will go at the head of a faithful, tried, and disciplined army, supported by the will of the king and the people, and accompanied by the omens of victory, to meet the enemy, and shed all my blood in the defence of the country. I cannot express myself as I could wish in the Swedish language, but my son speaks it for me. He is educated among you: on him your hopes must repose: but I speak the language of honour and freedom; and every Swede who truly loves his country understands me."

A long proclamation was made public by the King of Sweden, respecting the necessity of limiting the use of foreign articles of luxury. His Majesty observes, that the use of such articles far exceeds the ability of the nation to pay, which has occasioned an unexampled depreciation of the course of exchange, and consequent dearth of goods: that it is important to find means to supply the kingdom entirely from its own resources: that this end may be in future greatly promoted by encouraging establishments to promote internal industry: that this, however, requires time, and therefore extraordinary measures are necessary to limit the expenses caused by the importation of foreign goods. His Majesty alludes to his decree of the 31st of March, on the sub-

ject of prohibiting many foreign articles, and of his decree of the same date as this proclamation, forbidding the sale of boiled coffee, and of various foreign wines. He then observes, that notwithstanding he sees with pleasure how much the sentiments of the nation corresponds with his own principles, yet he willingly avoids imposing any regulations on the dress and way of living of private persons, and trusts in the patriotism of the Swedes for their doing their utmost to second his paternal intentions. He expects that the higher classes in particular will set a good example, and that every reasonable head of a family, who has been as it were compelled by the prevailing fashion to take a part in the expenses of luxury, will be glad of the opportunity of retrenchment which his gracious invitation affords them. The magistrates are bound to encourage those who in certain places may wish to form societies against the use of foreign articles. His majesty will regard with especial favour the zeal and exertions of every well-disposed subject to promote his gracious intentions, and will be highly gratified at being thus dispensed from the necessity of enforcing his gracious will by express commands.—This proclamation is dated Stockholm, 30th April 1817.

His Majesty, on July 14, having sent for the Hereditary Prince Oscar, in order to take his seat next to himself in the council of state; and in future to be present at its deliberations, addressed him in the following remarkable and pathetic speech:

‘My Grandson! It is a solemn
and

and affecting moment for me, when I see you take the place at my side in which you are to witness the deliberations upon the welfare of the people whose future fates Heaven has destined to be your care. My age and infirm health do not allow me to say on this occasion all that my tenderness for you, and my long experience, make me desirous of expressing. I will merely remind you, that you will one day become the chief of two free nations. Show them, by your respect for their rights, how you would have them respect yours. It is the constant equipoise between these rights that in free states produces order and strength; and it is the part of the sovereign, by justice, humanity, courage, and judgment, to direct and develop this principle, for the highest object, the general welfare. Never forget, my grandson, that I this day impose upon you a sacred and cherished duty, namely, that of paying, when I shall be no more, my debt to your father, for all the warm love, the kind attention, and the unwearied tenderness which he has shown me, from the very first hour of his connexion with this kingdom. Be to him what he is to me; be his support, as he is mine; press your heart to his as he presses himself to mine: my country, your father, and you: this, my son, is what you shall read in my countenance as long as my heart shall beat; but when my voice, already faint, shall have become for ever silent, may the Almighty protect thee; may he guide thy steps according to his laws, and permit thee, in the course of ages, to behold from higher regions, thy

name the honour and the delight of the earth!"

The Crown Prince also made on this occasion a solemn address to the King, and to the Prince his son.

OPENING OF THE DIET.

Nov. 28.—Yesterday, as had been announced, the solemn opening of the Diet of the kingdom took place. The Court, the Supreme Tribunal, the Council of State, &c. after attending Divine service in St. Nicholas church, proceeded to the hall of the Diet, in the palace, where the Minister of State, Count Engstrom, read a Royal letter, announcing that his Majesty, on account of indisposition, was not able to attend the opening of the Diet, but that he commissioned the Duke of Sudermania (Prince Oscar) to read his speech, by which his Majesty intended to give a new proof of his love to that Prince, and his confidence in his people.

The Hereditary Prince Oscar hereupon read the speech, which contained a concise view of all that his Majesty had done for the good of the country, and what he still intends to do; and what related to the support of agriculture and commerce, of the manufactories of cloth, &c. His Majesty has aimed at improving the condition of the troops by sea and land; he has endeavoured to open the way to promotion to those who shed their blood for their country, and to remove all the obstacles which must oppose the soldier whose fortune did not admit of his obtaining the rank of colonel, or lieutenant-colonel. The pay of the general has been increased, and provision made

made for their widows, as well as the widows of other officers. The lazarettos and hospitals, the academies of music and the fine arts, have received sums of money for their support; and the capital has been adorned with several new buildings. His Majesty has constantly endeavoured to follow the general opinion and the spirit of the times, not to suppress them. His Majesty, proposing to the consideration of the Diet a new and very detailed plan of finance, is far from thinking it so perfect as he could wish, but he thinks the means he proposes are, for the present, best adapted to circumstances, and that it will be proper to make a trial of them till the next Diet. His Majesty will be happy if this project can be useful to the Diet; and if their own determinations should be found superior, he will thank Providence for having given their meditations on this important subject a more advantageous direction. "Let the slave," says his Majesty, "who sinks beneath the weight of temporary embarrassment, seek in hope alone the possibility of relief; the free citizen himself, the founder of the laws which he obeys, himself the defender of the rights to which he appeals, meets the most difficult conjunctures with composure, sure of conquering them, as his fathers have done before him, sure of leaving the fruit of his exertions, and of his fulfilled duties, as an inheritance to his posterity."

Hereupon the Chancellor, Baron Wetterstedt, read the Royal proposals, of which the Land Marshal, and each of the speakers, received copies from the hands of

the Crown Prince: they then replied to his Majesty's speech, and kissed the hand of the Crown Prince.

VIENNA.

An article dated from *Vienna*, May 28, announces officially from the *Lemberg Gazette*, that his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Galicia and Lombardy, has resolved to establish, with some modifications, the representative government of the kingdoms of Galicia and Lodomeria in Austrian Poland, on the footing on which it was placed by Joseph II. There will be, as formerly, four orders of the kingdom, namely, the Prelates, the Barons, the Knights, and the Deputies of the cities. The last, and one of each of the three higher orders, will be elected for six years, the three others for three years. There will be besides a secretary, and an archivist, who will be appointed by government, and for life. The deputies will be elected by the body of the States, which will meet at the next Diet. They will each have a salary.

Thus (says the account) one of the most important articles of the Congress of Vienna is executed.

BERLIN.

The long protracted business of the constitution for the Prussian territories has still remained in an indecisive state, though not without indications of something like progress. A Berlin paper of the 20th of August mentions it is already known, that during the last days on which the council of State met, there was a sitting of the Constitutional Committee, over

over which the Prince Chancellor of State presided. On this occasion the Prince delivered a long speech, in which he described the manner in which the basis of the constitutional labours should commence. He laid down the proposition, that the constitution ought to unfold itself as it were in a historical manner out of the state of society; that therefore a correct knowledge of existing institutions was necessary; and that what was now in existence ought first to be taken into consideration. He accordingly proposed that commissioners should be sent into the different provinces, in order to obtain information on the spot respecting the ancient constitutions; and also to

converse with and collect the opinions of men of learning in the provinces on the subject. These commissioners are to be chosen from the body of the Constitutional Committee, and to receive orders to complete their inquiry by the next meeting of the Council of State, which is to take place in Autumn, in order that their labours may in that meeting be made the subject of deliberation. This proposal was generally approved; and the minister of state, Von Altenstein, Von Boyme, and Von Klewitz, are nominated to this commission, and have set out for the provinces. Thus (says the paper) one step more is taken towards the forming of a constitution for Prussia.

CHAPTER XIII.

Stutgard.—Sitting of the States.—Their Dissolution.—The King takes upon himself the Regulation of the Finances.—Duchy of Saxe-Weimar : Its admission to the Germanic Confederation.—Session of the States-General of the United Provinces.—King's Speech.—Dutch Tea-Trade.—Piedmontese Gazette.—Constantinople.

STUTGARD.

IN the first sitting of the states, this body presented an address to his Majesty, to which he returned an answer on the 16th of March, assuring them that he would not permit the members of his Privy Council to be present at any discussion in which it should be proposed by the States to prefer complaints to the throne against them. The States, proceeding in the commenced deliberations on the constitution, voted an address to the king for his gracious assurances. At the same time they specify the amelioration of divers laws since the accession of his Majesty, expressing the greatest confidence in his wisdom and good intentions, and anticipating the brightest prospects of national happiness and improvement from his reign.

On the same day the king caused to be read the answer of the Privy Council addressed, by his order, to the States. “Nothing (said the council) can be more pernicious to an assembly composed of different elements, than the spirit of faction, when it is not perpetually qualified by a sufficient counterpoise. If those whom the laws appoint to form that coun-

terpoise are, as you desire, excluded from the deliberations or the votes of your assembly, it is too plain that the chiefs of the faction will not bring forward their strongest objections to the views of government in the presence of the privy counsellors, but in secret sittings ; and that in these, resolutions will be adopted without allowing an opportunity of hearing or weighing the reasons which government might state against them.”

In the further proceedings of the States, differences arose between that body and the king ; and on the 28th and 29th of May, in consequence of the decided part which his Majesty had taken in the late discussions relative to the hereditary duchy, a set of rioters, composed, it is said, of the lowest class of people, attacked the house of the minister Wangenheim, where they practised several outrages. They were, however, soon reduced to order with the assistance of the usual patrols. A proclamation was in consequence issued against all seditious assemblies.

The king, on the fourth of June, finding himself unable to control the majority of the States, dissolved that body, and commanded

manded all those members who were not domiciliated at Stutgard, to repair to their respective habitations.

On the following day he published an additional rescript, addressed to all the subjects of his kingdom.

“ We William,” &c.

“ Dear and faithful subjects!— The address of the Assembly of the States of the 4th of June, according to which the majority has rejected in an inexplicable manner the definitive offers which we made, in our rescript of the 26th of May and its supplement, to conclude a constitutional compact, has brought the negotiation to such a point, that we must renounce all hope of attaining our object by means of a convention with this Assembly.

“ However painful it be to our paternal heart to see the failure of all our efforts for the establishment of a constitution suited to all the different relations, and which might have consolidated tranquillity and order, and cause general satisfaction, our duties in the quality of sovereign, and our relation with other states, do not permit us to make to the demands of the States further sacrifices, which would cause the throne to lose its dignity, the government its force, and the people the independence of their representatives.

“ In consequence, we have found ourselves under the necessity of dissolving our assembly, the operations of which could no longer make us hope for a happy issue.

“ The exposé which we shall lay before our people, of the man-

ner in which the work of the constitution has been hitherto treated, will convince every impartial person, that we have done, to effect so desirable an union, every thing that is compatible with the rights of our crown, and the principles of a good administration of the state; and that the project of the constitution, annexed to the rescript of the 26th of May, contains every thing that could be done to confirm the individual and political freedom of the people of Wurtemberg.

“ We may confidently hope, that our cotemporaries and posterity will do justice to our way of acting, and that they will, with us, recognize as real and prudent friends to their country, the 42 members who have distinguished themselves by their proper and honourable conduct on this important occasion.

“ But to do still all that depends upon us, that our faithful people may suffer as little as possible from the perverse conduct of their representatives, we add to what we said in our rescript of the 26th of May, the declaration, that if the majority of our people signifies in the assemblies of the bailliages, or by the organ of their magistrates, that they accept the project of the constitution, under the restrictions contained in the said rescript, we shall, on our side, consider the constitutional compact as concluded, and shall put it in force.

“ We also leave to the members who have virile votes, who have not personally voted against the acceptance of the constitution in the assembly of the States now dissolved, the liberty of acceding to

to it. We repeat at the same time the assurance that we will let our people enjoy from this moment all the benefits of the project of the constitution, in every thing that does not relate to a representation of the states.

“ On the other hand, we expect, with full confidence, that the subjects of our united kingdom will not suffer themselves to be shaken in the observance of their duties as subjects and citizens, but that they will persevere the more in their fidelity and obedience, as all opposition in every act tending to disturb public order and tranquillity will be punished with all the rigour of the laws.

“ Given at Stutgard, in his Majesty's Privy Council, June 5, 1817. By his Majesty's command.”

The ministry of the interior, by order of his Majesty, published a proclamation on the 6th, containing a recital of all that happened at the late diet of Wurtemberg.

The sudden dissolution of the assembly of states having put an end to his Majesty's hopes of being able to effect the introduction of the representative system, he found it necessary to take upon himself the regulation of the finances for the years 1817 and 1818. Accordingly, on the 4th of September, he published a report addressed to his Majesty by the finance minister, in which the sum of 2,400,000 florins, with the addition of one tenth to make good the expense of the meeting of the states, was charged upon the nation. The king at the same time orders all public officers to keep a watchful eye upon such as may endeavour to persuade their fellow-burghers to resist the law, on

the pretext of its not being consented to by the states; and threatens all the severity of the law against the disturbers of the public peace.

SAXE WEIMAR.

This Duchy appears to have taken the lead of the other German states, with respect to the true principles of a free constitution. Its diet had just decided, in the month of March, that the estates of the nobles, and those of the order of knighthood, were henceforward to be liable to all the public burdens borne by the rest of the people; but at the same time it enacted, that the actual proprietors should be indemnified for the loss of the immunity from contribution which they formerly enjoyed, and upon the faith of the continuance of which they bought and held their estates.

It has been generally observed, that the greatest harmony and good feeling reigns in the assembly of representatives of this Duchy. The order of the peasantry sent deputies who defended their interests with moderation, but with firmness. The attacks made upon the immunity of the estates of the noblesse excited at first some animated debates, but the representatives of the noblesse yielded as soon as an indemnity was proposed.

A proposition made by the Duke of Saxe-Weimar to the grand diet sitting at Frankfort, that the constitution of his duchy should be placed under the guarantee of the Germanic Confederation, was formally confirmed by a vote delivered by Austria, and after certain explanations, was concurred in

in by Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hanover, Wurtemberg, Baden, Hesse, and Denmark.

STATES GENERAL.

On October the 20th the annual session of the States General was opened at the Hague with the usual solemnities. His Majesty delivered a speech from the throne, of which the following is the substance.

His Majesty began with noticing the happy event of the birth of a son to the Prince of Orange, adding, that his education would be so directed, as to inspire him from his earliest childhood with a sense of his duties, and with the most ardent zeal for the freedom and welfare of his countrymen.

The general peace, said his Majesty, has been undisturbed; and every day proves that the governments, as well as the people, are unanimous in the desire of maintaining it. On my side I have neglected nothing that can tend to ensure to this kingdom and its inhabitants the goodwill of foreign powers.

His Majesty then noticed at length the difficulties caused by the unfavourable season, but which the rich harvest of the year would put an end to. The distresses, he said, had been relieved partly by finding them work, and partly by affording them assistance. The local authorities had done their utmost; and private charity, the fairest trait in the national character, had kept pace with the increasing distress. His Majesty observed that some effectual regulations relative to the poor are necessary, and he hoped

to see the basis of them laid in this session. Some measures will be proposed that experience has shown to be useful to industry. Nothing has been more injurious to this effect than the dearness of provisions, which has checked the consumption of manufactured goods among the most numerous classes of people. The government itself has felt the influence of this state of things, by the great increase of its expenses, and the diminution of its receipts. Besides this, a great deficit has been caused by the not levying a tax upon inherited property, or a legacy tax.

The law respecting the militia has been put in execution for the first time, and has answered every expectation. Agriculture is flourishing. The fisheries, the colonial trade, and all branches connected with them, have improved; and the freedom of the corn trade by sea, while it secured the kingdom from scarcity at home, and kept the prices of bread in the country lower than among its neighbours, has confined to the ports of the Netherlands the privilege of being the granaries of all Europe.

His Majesty then notices the great expense caused by the fortification of the southern frontier. A great many public works, such as harbours and the like, have been begun and continued, and even completed. In some provinces great roads have been made, which the most enlightened inhabitants have for years designed in vain.

His Majesty speaks with satisfaction of the joy which has been displayed

displayed at the installation of the universities, from which he expects the happiest results for the whole kingdom.

His Majesty concludes his speech in the following terms.

“ Thus the number of objects is considerable on which we can look with satisfaction; and we can with the more tranquillity attend to the means of extricating ourselves from temporary difficulties which were independent of the human will. But the surest pledge of this is sought by the nation in the cordial operation of the King and the States General. Neither I nor your High Mightinesses, whose sentiments and example have so powerful an influence, will disappoint its confidence; and the further confirmation of a social system, founded on principles of liberty and order, will be, with the blessing of God, the reward as well as the fruit, of our indefatigable efforts.”

The following royal declaration respecting the tea-trade in Holland will probably be regarded as a curious document, and may be viewed as a dangerous inroad upon the price of that article in a neighbouring country.

DUTCH TEA-TRADE.

We, William, by the grace of God, &c. having taken into our consideration the existing differences in the laws respecting the tea-trade, as they apply to the two principal divisions of the kingdom, judge it expedient that the same ought to be uniform; and seeing that the law of the 23d of March, 1815, for the establishment in our northern provinces of

an exclusive company for the trade to China, has not been attended with the results which were expected; but that, so far from our mercantile or trading subjects having subscribed for shares in the said company, in the books which have now been fully two years open for that purpose, they have expressed a general wish that the trade in the article of tea should be thrown open:

So we having heard our Council of State, and with the common consent of the States-General, have thought proper and resolved, and by these presents do think proper and resolve,

1st. That all the laws now in being relative to the tea-trade shall be, and the same are hereby, withdrawn and abolished.

2d. That the holders of shares in the aforesaid exclusive company shall be immediately reimbursed the amount paid on their respective subscriptions, together with the interest, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, from the day on which they were received until that of payment.

3d. That under the following regulations the general law of the 3d of October, 1816, for the levying of duties on imports and exports, shall from henceforward apply to tea, and that every individual shall be permitted to import tea into this kingdom, and have the uncontrolled possession thereof, immediately after the payment of the duties thereon; that is to say,

On Bohea and low Congou tea, florins 8 per 100lb.

On all other kinds of tea florins 16 per 100lb.

4th. That all teas of which
proof

proof shall be given that they are imported direct and in entire cargoes from China, or the Dutch possessions in the East Indies, for the account of resident subjects, in ships built in this kingdom, the duty shall be only,

On Bohea and low Congou, florins 2 10 per 100lb.

On all other kinds 5 0 per 100lb.

5th. That Bohea and low Congou tea shall only be denominated such as are imported unmixed and in whole chests, and in which smaller chests or packages are not included.

6th. That low Congou tea, even in whole chests, shall be denominated such, if its current value here at the time of its entry shall be, or exceed one guilder per pound; and that all tea for which entry is made at the low duties, may be taken over by any officer of the revenue at 1 florin per pound, adding 12 per cent. and the duty of the tea thereto, in conformity to the 223d and 224th articles of the law of the 3d of October 1816, as far as these are applicable to the case.

7th. That with reference to direct importations of tea from China, or from the Dutch settlements in the East Indies, his Majesty shall have the faculty of extending the privileges of Dutch-built ships to foreign bottoms, which, after strict investigation, shall appear to be Dutch property, at the time of the promulgation of this law, and have since continued to be so.

8th. That in case ships of the above two descriptions should not offer in sufficient number, his Majesty may license for one voyage only to China, or the Dutch set-

tlements in the East Indies, for the importation of a cargo of tea, but within the period of four years from the promulgation of this law, any foreign-built ships, which, at the time of commencement of such voyage, shall fully appear to be the property of Dutch subjects.

9th. That the holders of licenses granted in consequence of the resolutions of the 12th of April 1815, on the importation of tea for the periodical public sales, which were intended to have taken place before the close of the present, or during the course of the next year, the tea so already imported, or which may be imported on or before the 15th of October 1818, shall be delivered into the uncontrolled possession of the consignees or importers, upon payment only of the same duties, which, by the present law, are to be levied on tea imported direct from China, or from the Dutch settlements in the East Indies, in Dutch-built ships, for account of resident subjects.

On the payment of the same duties all teas already imported, and remaining unsold in the warehouses of the department of trade and colonies, shall be delivered to the importers.

10th. That tea exported shall be subject to the duty (called *Tabelle Regt.*) of one-fifth per cent. on the value, or 3½ stivers per 100lb. at the option of the exporter.

11th. That transit of tea through the kingdom shall not be allowed.

12th. That in computing the duty upon tea, the tares to be allowed, provided the packages are of the usual description, shall be,

Upon

Upon chests, weighing 110lb. and upwards, 18 per cent.

Upon chests, weighing under 110lb. 25 per cent. With reservation, however, of the same remedy as is prescribed in the sixth article of the law of the 3d of October 1816, in the case of inadequate tares.

We enjoin and command, &c.

Passed the Second Chamber of the States-General, on the 16th of December 1817, with a majority of 85 against 7.

SARDINIA.

(From the Piedmontese Gazette.)

The King of Sardinia, by a decree of the 9th of Dec. has abolished—

1. The prohibition against the erection of primogenitures and feudal rights, enacted by the 9th section of the edict of the 29th of July 1797, or by any other law; restricting, however, to those primogenitures and majorats only which shall be erected in favour of persons to come in terms of our laws, the capacity of establishing similar limitations, and in favour of their descendants in the male line, leaving in force the laws enacted before the 29th of July 1797, in such matters.

2. When the person who erects such majorats, however, shall leave four children or upwards, he shall not have the power of entailing more than a third part of his patrimony; and where he shall have less than four, he shall not be able to tie up more than the half of it.

3. It shall always be allowed to the person who erects such primogenitures and majorats, to transmit through them the title of no-

bility which may be conferred upon them.

4. It reserves to the sovereign the right of enacting, with regard to the Duchy of Genoa, such provisions as he may judge convenient.

This decree is introduced by a preamble, of which the following is the most important passage:—

“Desirous to maintain in the class which, by their peculiar institution, stands nearest the throne, and whose especial duty it is to watch over its defence, that lustre and inheritance of glory which forms its noblest prerogative, we have determined to return to the laws that existed with regard to primogeniture before 1797. But for the same end, other and more important provisions still are required, for the abuse of titles must be restrained (which must emanate from us alone); and therefore the rules of their concession, transmission, and extinction, shall be fixed with relation to their donation and prerogatives.”

CONSTANTINOPLE.

(Letter from Constantinople, 20th June.
Printed in the Hamburgh Mail.)

The representations of the Russian minister, Count Von Stroganoff, which were founded on the most reasonable and just demands of Russia, seem not to have led to any thing decisive in the Divan. The influence of the Grand Vizier over the Reis-Effendi and the Tefterdar had hindered it. The Sultan, who, on the other hand, earnestly desired a good understanding with Russia, addressed on the 3d of March to the Grand Vizier the following energetic and remarkable rescript:—

“HALTI-

“ HALTI-SHERIF.

“ There have been many and long deliberations already held upon the note which the Russian Ambassador has delivered ; yet no journal of your sittings has yet been laid before us. It is now above 40 days since this business was laid before you for discussion. Why have you not come to any resolution upon it ? From this delay we must believe that you employ yourselves in your sittings only in things of no consequence. Will you then wait till the Russian Ambassador is angry, and proceeds to threats ? If you believe that war is unavoidable, think on the means of defence : show us minutely the necessary causes of war, and the extent of the resources which you will employ. But on the other hand, if time and circumstance do not allow us to undertake a war, prevent the discontent of the Russian Ambassador as soon as possible by a suitable answer.”

The impression which this rescript made on the Divan was easily to be foreseen. It gave oc-

casion to a second, which was in the following terms :—

“ As my Ministers, after mature consideration of all the circumstances, have considered it necessary *to give up all thoughts of war*, and to embrace the wise part of reconciliation, it is absolutely necessary that the conferences should be immediately opened, and that the note in question should be delivered without delay by the Reis Effendi to the Russian Ambassador ; but the greatest care must be taken that this note be well and clearly drawn up ; and not like the first, in which there was no sense at all, in order to give Russia to understand that it is *our intention to arrange matters amicably.*”

The inclination of the Grand Signor to peace, and this decisive language, were sufficient to cause the fall of the opposite party. The Grand Vizier received a severe reprimand ; but his instrument, the Reis Effendi, was disgraced, and his office given to the Djanil Effendi, a man who has already frequently filled that place.

CHAPTER XIV.

America, North and South.—Message to the Senate and House of Representatives from President Madison.—Votes taken for President and Vice-President.—Monroe chosen for the former Office, and his Speech.—Second Speech, on December the 2d.—State of Spanish Affairs.

ON the 3d of February the following message was received by the Senate and House of Representatives, from the President of the United States:—

“The Government of Great Britain, induced by the posture of the relations with the United States which succeeded the conclusion of the recent commercial convention, issued an order on the 17th day of August, 1815, discontinuing the discriminating duties payable in British ports on American vessels and their cargoes. It was not until the 22d of December following that a correspondent discontinuance of discriminating duties on British vessels and their cargoes in American ports, took effect, under the authority vested in the executive by the act of March 1816. During the period between these two dates there was consequently a failure of reciprocity or equality in the existing regulations of the two countries. I recommend to the consideration of Congress the expedience of paying to the British Government the amount of the duties remitted, during the period in question, to the citizens of the United States; subject to a deduction of the amount of whatever discriminating duties may have commenced in

British ports after the signature of that convention, and been collected previous to the 17th of August 1815.

Feb. 3, 1817. JAMES MADISON.”

This message was referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT.

On the 4th of February votes were taken for the choice of persons to fill the offices of President and Vice-President; when James Monroe was declared President, and Daniel D. Tomkins, Vice-President, by a large majority.

On the same day the President was solemnly inaugurated, after which he delivered the following speech:

“I should be destitute of feeling if I was not deeply affected by the strong proof which my fellow-citizens have given me of their confidence, in calling me to the high office whose functions I am about to assume. As the expression of their good opinion of my conduct in the public service, I derive from it a gratification, which those who are conscious of having done all they could to merit it, can alone feel. My sensibility is increased by a just estimate of the importance of the trust, and of the nature and extent of its duties: with

with the proper discharge of which the highest interests of a great and free people are intimately connected. Conscious of my own deficiency, I cannot enter on their duties without great anxiety for the result. From a just responsibility I will never shrink; calculating with confidence, that in my best efforts to promote the public welfare, my motives will always be duly appreciated, and my conduct be viewed with that candour and indulgence which I have experienced in other stations.

“ In commencing the duties of the Chief Executive office, it has been the practice of the distinguished men who have gone before me to explain the principles which would govern them in their respective administrations. In following their venerated example, my attention is naturally drawn to the great causes which have contributed in a principal degree to produce the present happy condition of the United States. They will best explain the nature of our duties, and shed much light on the policy which ought to be pursued in future.

“ From the commencement of our revolution to the present day, almost forty years have elapsed; and from the establishment of this constitution, twenty-eight. Through this whole term the Government has been what may emphatically be called self-government; and what has been the effect? To whatever object we turn our attention, whether it relates to our foreign or domestic concerns, we find abundant cause to felicitate ourselves in the excellence of our institutions. During a period fraught with difficulties, and

marked by very extraordinary events, the United States have flourished beyond example. Their citizens, individually, have been happy, and the nation prosperous. Under this constitution our commerce has been wisely regulated with foreign nations, and between the States; new States have been admitted into our union; our territory has been enlarged by fair and honourable treaty, and with great advantage to the original States; the States, respectively, protected by the national Government, under a mild parental system, against foreign dangers, and enjoying within their separate spheres, by a wise partition of power, a just proportion of the sovereignty, have improved their police, extended their settlements, and attained a strength and maturity which are the best proofs of wholesome laws well administered. And if we look to the condition of individuals, what a proud spectacle does it exhibit? On whom has oppression fallen in any quarter of our union? Who has been deprived of any right of person or of property? Who restrained from offering his vows, in the mode which he prefers, to the Divine Author of his being? It is well known, that all these blessings have been enjoyed in their fullest extent: and I add, with peculiar satisfaction, that there has been no example of a capital punishment being inflicted on any one for the crime of high treason.

“ Some who might admit the competency of our Government to these beneficent duties, might doubt it in trials which put to the test its strength and efficiency, as a member of the great community

of nations. Here, too, experience has afforded us the most satisfactory proof in its favour. Just as this constitution was put into action, several of the principal states of Europe had become much agitated, and some of them seriously convulsed. Destructive wars ensued, which have of late only been terminated. In the course of these conflicts, the United States received great injury from several of the parties. It was their interest to stand aloof from the contest, to demand justice from the party committing the injury, and to cultivate, by fair and honourable conduct, the friendship of all. War became at length inevitable, and the result has shown that our Government is equal to that the greatest of trials, under the most unfavourable circumstances. Of the virtue of the people, and of the heroic exploits of the army, the navy, and the militia, I need not speak. Such, then, is the happy Government under which we live—a Government adequate to every purpose for which the social compact is formed—a Government elective in all its branches, under which every citizen may, by his merit, obtain the highest trust recognized by the constitution—which contains within it no cause of discord, none to put at variance one portion of the community with another—a Government which protects every citizen in the full enjoyment of his rights, and is able to protect the nation against injustice from foreign Powers.

“ Other considerations of the highest importance admonish us to cherish our union, and to cling to the Government which supports it. Fortunate as we are in our

political institutions, we have not been less so in other circumstances, on which our prosperity and happiness essentially depend. Situate within the temperate zone, and extending through many degrees of latitude along the Atlantic, the United States enjoy all the varieties of climate, and every production incident to that portion of the globe. Penetrating internally to the great lakes, and beyond the sources of the great rivers which communicate through our whole interior, no country was ever happier with respect to its domain. Blessed too with a fertile soil, our produce has always been very abundant, leaving even in years the least favourable, a surplus for the wants of our fellow-men in other countries. Such is our peculiar felicity, that there is not a part of our union that is not particularly interested in preserving it. The great agricultural interest of the nation prospers under its protection. Local interests are not less fostered by it. Our fellow-citizens of the North, engaged in navigation, find great encouragement in being made the favoured carriers of the vast productions of the other portions of the United States, while the inhabitants of these are amply recompensed, in their turn, by the nursery for seamen and naval force thus formed and reared up for the support of our common rights. Our manufacturers find a generous encouragement by the policy which patronizes domestic industry; and the surplus of our produce, a steady and profitable market by local wants, in less favoured parts, at home.

“ Such, then, being the highly favoured condition of our country, it

it is the interest of every citizen to maintain it. What are the dangers which menace us? If any exist, they ought to be ascertained and guarded against. In explaining my sentiments on this subject, it may be asked, what raised us to the present happy state? How did we accomplish the revolution? How remedy the defects of the first instrument of our union, by infusing into the national government sufficient power for national purposes, without impairing the just rights of the States, or affecting those of individuals? How sustain, and pass with glory through the late war? The government has been in the hands of the people. To the people, therefore, and to the faithful and able depositaries of their trust, is the credit due. Had the people of the United States been educated in different principles; had they been less intelligent, less independent, or less virtuous, can it be believed that we should have maintained the same steady and consistent career, or been blessed with the same success? While, then, the constitution retains its present sound and healthful state, every thing will be free. They will choose competent and faithful representatives for every department. It is only when the people become ignorant and corrupt, when they degenerate into a populace, that they are incapable of exercising the sovereignty. Usurpation is then an easy attainment, and an usurper soon found. The people themselves become the willing instrument of their own debasement and ruin. Let us then look to the great cause, and endeavour to preserve it in full force.

Let us, by all wise and constitutional measures, promote intelligence among the people, as the best means of preserving our liberties.

“Dangers from abroad are not less deserving of attention. Experiencing the fortune of other nations, the United States may be again involved in war; and it may, in that event, be the object of the adverse party to upset our government, to break our union, and demolish us as a nation. Our distance from Europe, and the just, moderate, and pacific policy of our government, may form some security against these dangers, but they ought to be anticipated and guarded against. Many of our citizens are engaged in commerce and navigation, and all of them are, in a certain degree, dependent upon that prosperous state. Many are engaged in the fisheries. These interests are exposed to invasion in the wars between other powers, and we should disregard the faithful admonition of experience if we did not expect it. We must support our rights, or lose our character, and with it perhaps our liberties. A people who fail to do it can scarcely be said to hold a place among independent nations. National honour is national property of the highest value. The sentiment in the mind of every citizen is national strength. It ought therefore to be cherished.

“To secure us against these dangers, our coast and inland frontiers should be fortified, our army and navy regulated upon just principles as to the force of each, be kept in perfect order, and our militia be placed on the best prac-

licable footing. To put our extensive coasts in such a state of defence as to secure our cities and interior from invasion, will be attended with expense, but the work when finished will be permanent ; and it is fair to presume, that a single campaign of invasion by a naval force superior to our own, aided by a few thousand land troops, would expose us to greater expense, without taking into the estimate the loss of property and distress of our citizens, than would be sufficient for this great work. Our land and naval resources should be moderate, but adequate to the necessary purposes : the former to garrison and preserve our fortifications, and to meet the first invasions of a foreign foe ; and, while constituting the elements of a greater force, to preserve the science, as well as all the necessary implements of war, in a state to be brought into activity in the event of war. The latter, retained within the limits proper in a state of peace, might aid in maintaining the neutrality of the United States with dignity in the wars of other powers, and in saving the property of their citizens from spoliation. In time of war, with the enlargement of which the great naval resources of the country render it susceptible, and which should be duly fostered in time of peace, it would contribute essentially, both as an auxiliary of defence, and as a powerful engine of annoyance, to diminish the calamities of war, and to bring the war to a speedy and honourable termination.

“ But it ought always to be held prominently in view, that the safety of these States, and of eve-

ry thing dear to a free people, must depend in an eminent degree on the militia. Invasions may be made too formidable to be resisted by any land or naval force, which it would comport, either with the principles of our Government, or the circumstances of the United States, to maintain : in such cases, recourse must be had to the great body of the people, and in a manner to produce the best effect. It is of the highest importance, therefore, that they be so organized and trained as to be prepared for any emergency. The arrangement should be such as to put at the command of the government the ardent patriotism and youthful vigour of the country. If formed on equal and just principles, it cannot be oppressive. It is the crisis which makes the pressure, and not the laws, which provide a remedy for it. The arrangement should be formed too in the time of peace, to be better prepared for war. With such an organization of such a people, the United States have nothing to dread from foreign invasion. At its approach an overwhelming force of gallant men might always be put in motion.

“ Other interests of high importance will claim attention, among which the improvement of our country by roads and canals, proceeding always with a constitutional sanction, holds a distinguished place. By thus facilitating the intercourse between the States, we shall add much to the convenience and comfort of our fellow-citizens ; much to the ornament of the country ; and, what is of greater importance, we shall shorten distances, and by making each

part more accessible to and dependent on each other, we shall bind the union more closely together. Nature has done so much for us by intersecting the country with so many great rivers, bays, and lakes, approaching from distant points so near to each other, that the inducement to complete the work seems to be peculiarly strong. A more interesting spectacle was perhaps never seen than is exhibited within the limits of the United States; a territory so vast, and advantageously situated, containing objects so grand, so useful, so happily connected in all their parts. Our manufactures will likewise require the systematic and fostering care of the government. Possessing, as we do, all the raw materials, the fruit of our own soil and industry, we ought not to depend in the degree we have done on supplies from other countries. While we are thus dependent, the sudden events of war, unsought and unexpected, cannot fail to plunge us into the most serious difficulties.

“ It is important, too, that the capital which nourishes our manufactures should be domestic; as its influence in that case, instead of exhausting, as it may do in foreign hands, would be felt advantageously on agriculture and every other branch of industry. Equally important is it to provide at home a market for our raw materials, as, by extending the competition, it will enhance the price, and protect the cultivator against the casualties incident to foreign markets. With the Indian tribes, it is our duty to cultivate friendly relations, and to act with kindness and liberality in all our transac-

tions. Equally proper is it to persevere in our efforts to extend to them the advantages of civilization. The great amount of our revenue, and the flourishing state of the treasury, are a full proof of the competency of the national resources for any emergency, as they are of the willingness of our fellow-citizens to bear the burdens which the public necessities require. The vast amount of vacant lands, the value of which daily augments, forms an additional resource of great extent and duration. These resources, besides accomplishing every other necessary purpose, put it completely in the power of the United States to discharge the national debt at an early period. Peace is the best time for improvement and preparation of every kind. It is in peace that our commerce flourishes most, that the taxes are most easily paid, and that the revenue is most productive.

“ The Executive is charged officially in the departments under it, with the disbursement of the public money, and is responsible for the faithful application of it to the purposes for which it is raised. The Legislature is the watchful guardian over the public purse; it is its duty to see that the disbursement has been honestly made. To meet the requisite responsibility, every facility should be afforded to the Executive to enable it to bring the public agents, intrusted with the public money, strictly and promptly to account. Nothing should be presumed against them; but if, with the requisite facilities, the public money is suffered to lie long and uselessly in their hands, they will not

not be the only defaulters, nor will the demoralizing effect be confined to them. It will evince a relaxation and want of tone in the administration, which will be felt by the whole community. I shall do all that I can to secure economy and fidelity in this important branch of the administration; and I doubt not that the Legislature will perform its duty with equal zeal. A thorough examination should be regularly made, and I will promote it.

“It is particularly gratifying to me to enter on the discharge of these duties, at a time when the United States are blessed with peace. It is a state most consistent with their prosperity and happiness. It will be my sincere duty to preserve it, so far as depends on the Executive, on just principles, with all nations, claiming nothing unreasonable of any, and rendering to each what is its due. Equally gratifying is it to witness the increased harmony of opinion which pervades our union. Discord does not belong to our system. Union is recommended, as well by the free and benign principles of our Government, extending its blessings to every individual, as by the other eminent advantages attending it. The American people have encountered together great dangers, and sustained severe trials with success. They constitute one great family, with a common interest.

“Experience has enlightened us on some questions of essential importance to the country. The progress has been slow, dictated by a just reflection, and a faithful regard to every interest connected with it. To promote this harmony,

in accord with the principles of our Republican Government, and in a manner to give them the most complete effect, and to advance in all other respects the best interest of our Union, will be the object of my constant and zealous exertions. Never did a Government commence under auspices so favourable, nor ever was success so complete. If we look to the history of other nations, ancient or modern, we find no example of a growth so rapid, so gigantic; of a people so prosperous and happy.

“In contemplating what we have still to perform, the heart of every citizen must expand with joy, when he reflects how near our government has approached to perfection; that, in respect to it, we have no essential improvement to make: that the great object is to preserve it in the essential principles and features which characterize it; and that it is to be done by preserving the virtue and enlightening the minds of the people; and, as a security against foreign dangers, to adopt such arrangements as are indispensable to the support of our independence, our rights, and liberties. If we persevere in the career in which we have advanced so far, and in the path already traced, we cannot fail, under the favour of a gracious Providence, to attain the high destiny which seems to await us.

“In the administrations of the illustrious men who have preceded me in this high station, with some of whom I have been connected by the closest ties from early life, examples are presented which will always be found highly instructive and

and useful to their successor. From these I shall endeavour to derive all the advantages which they may afford. Of my immediate predecessor, under whom so important a portion of this great and successful experiment has been made, I shall be pardoned for expressing my earnest wishes that he may long enjoy in his retirement the affections of a grateful country, the best reward of exalted talents and the most faithful and meritorious services. Relying on the aid to be derived from the other departments of the government, I enter on the trust to which I have been called by the suffrages of my fellow-citizens, with my fervent prayers to the Almighty that he will be graciously pleased to continue to us that protection which he has already conspicuously displayed in our favour."

PRESIDENT'S SECOND SPEECH.

Washington, Dec. 2.

This day at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States transmitted to both Houses of Congress, the following Message, by Mr. Joseph Jones Monro, his secretary :

" Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives,

" At no period of our political existence had we so much cause to felicitate ourselves at the prosperous and happy condition of our country. The abundant fruits of the earth have filled it with plenty. An extensive and profitable commerce has greatly augmented our revenue. The public credit has attained an extraordinary elevation. Our preparations for defence, in case of future wars, from which,

by the experience of all nations we ought not to expect to be exempted, are advancing under a well-digested system, with all the dispatch which so important a work will admit. Our free government, founded on the interest and affections of the people, has gained, and is daily gaining, strength. Local jealousies are rapidly yielding to more generous, enlarged, and enlightened views of national policy. For advantages so numerous and highly important, it is our duty to unite in grateful acknowledgments to that Omnipotent Being from whom they are derived, and in unceasing prayer that he will endow us with virtue and strength to maintain and hand them down in their utmost purity to our latest posterity.

" I have the satisfaction to inform you, that an arrangement, which had been commenced by my predecessor, with the British Government, for the reduction of the naval force, by Great Britain and the United States, on the Lakes, has been concluded; by which it is provided, that neither party shall keep in service on Lake Champlain more than one vessel; on Lake Ontario more than one; and on Lake Erie and the Upper Lakes more than two; to be armed each with one cannon only; and that all the other armed vessels of both parties, of which an exact list is interchanged, shall be dismantled. It is also agreed, that the force retained shall be restricted in its duty to the internal purposes of each party; and that the arrangement shall remain in force until six months shall have expired, after notice given by one of the parties to the other of its desire

desire that it should terminate. By this arrangement, useless expense on both sides, and, what is of still greater importance, the danger of collision between armed vessels in those inland waters which was great, is prevented.

“ I have the satisfaction also to state, that the Commissioners, under the fourth article of the treaty of Ghent, to whom it was referred to decide, to which party the several islands in the bay of Passamaquoddy belonged, under the treaty of 1783, have agreed in a report, by which all the islands in the possession of each party before the late war have been decreed to it. The Commissioners acting under the other article of the treaty of Ghent, for the settlement of the boundaries, have also been engaged in the discharge of their respective duties, but have not yet completed them. The difference which arose between the two Governments under that treaty, respecting the right of the United States to take and cure fish on the coast of the British provinces north of our limits, which had been secured by the treaty of 1783, is still in negotiation. The proposition made by this Government, to extend to the colonies of Great Britain the principle of the convention of London, by which the commerce between the ports of the United States and British ports in Europe had been placed on a footing of equality, has been declined by the British Government. This subject having been thus amicably discussed between the two Governments, and it appearing that the British Government is unwilling to depart from its present regula-

tions, it remains for Congress to decide whether they will make any other regulations, in consequence thereof, for the protection and improvement of our navigation.

“ The negotiation with Spain, for spoliations on our commerce, and the settlement of boundaries, remains, essentially, in the state it held, by the communications that were made to Congress by my predecessor. It has been evidently the policy of the Spanish Government to keep the negotiation suspended, and in this the United States have acquiesced, from an amicable disposition towards Spain, and in the expectation that her Government would, from a sense of justice, finally accede to such an arrangement as would be equal between the parties. A disposition has been lately shewn by the Spanish Government to move in the negotiation, which has been met by this Government, and should the conciliatory and friendly policy, which has invariably guided our Councils, be reciprocated, a just and satisfactory arrangement may be expected. It is proper, however, to remark, that no proposition has yet been made, from which such a result can be presumed.

“ It was anticipated, at an early stage, that the contest between Spain and her colonies would become highly interesting to the United States. It was natural that our citizens should sympathise in events which affected their neighbours. It seemed probable, also, that the prosecution of the conflict along our coast, and in contiguous countries, would occasionally interrupt our commerce, and otherwise

otherwise affect the persons and property of our citizens. These anticipations have been realized. Such injuries have been received from persons acting under the authority of both the parties, and for which redress has, in most instances, been withheld. Through every stage of the conflict, the United States have maintained an impartial neutrality, giving aid to neither of the parties, in men, money, ships, or munitions of war. They have regarded the contest, not in the light of an ordinary insurrection or rebellion, but as a civil war between parties nearly equal, having as to neutral powers, equal rights. Our ports have been open to both; and every article, the fruit of our soil, or of the industry of our citizens, which either was permitted to take, has been equally free to the other. Should the colonies establish their independence, it is proper now to state, that this Government neither seeks, nor would accept from them any advantage, in commerce or otherwise, which would not be equally open to all other nations. The colonies will, in that event, become independent states, free from any obligation to or connexion with us, which it may not then be their interest to form on a basis of fair reciprocity.

“ In the summer of the present year an expedition was set on foot against East Florida, by persons claiming to act under the authority of some of the colonies, who took possession of Amelia Island, at the mouth of St. Mary's river, near the boundary of the state of Georgia. As this province lies east of the Mississippi, and is bounded by the United States and

the ocean on every side, and has been a subject of negotiation with the Government of Spain, as an indemnity for losses by spoliation, or in exchange for territory of equal value westward of the Mississippi, a fact well known to the world, it excited surprise that any countenance should be given to this measure by any of the colonies. As it would be difficult to reconcile it with the friendly relations existing between the United States and the colonies, a doubt was entertained whether it had been authorized by them, or any of them. This doubt has gained strength, by the circumstances which have unfolded themselves in the prosecution of the enterprise, which have marked it as a mere private unauthorized adventure. Projected and countenanced with an incompetent force, reliance seems to have been placed on what might be drawn, in defiance of our laws, from within our limits; and of late, as their resources have failed, it has assumed a more marked character of unfriendliness to us, the island being made a channel for the illicit introduction of slaves from Africa into the United States, an asylum for fugitive slaves from the neighbouring States, and a port for smuggling of every kind.

“ A similar establishment was made, at an earlier period, by persons of the same description in the Gulph of Mexico, at a place called Galvestown, within the limits of the United States, as we contend, under the cession of Louisiana. This enterprise has been marked in a more signal manner, by all the objectionable circumstances which characterized the

the other, and more particularly by the equipment of privateers, which have annoyed our commerce, and by smuggling. These establishments, if ever sanctioned by any authority whatever, which is not believed, have abused their trust, and forfeited all claim to consideration. A just regard for the rights and interests of the United States required that they should be suppressed: and orders have accordingly issued to that effect. The imperious considerations which produced this measure will be explained to the parties whom it may, in any degree, concern.

“ To obtain correct information on every subject in which the United States are interested; to inspire just sentiments, in all persons in authority, on either side, of our friendly disposition, so far as it may comport with an impartial neutrality; and to secure proper respect to our commerce in every port, and from every flag; it has been thought proper to send a ship of war, with three distinguished citizens, along the southern coast, with instruction to touch at such ports as they may find most expedient for these purposes. With the existing authorities, with those in the possession of, and exercising the sovereignty, must the communication be held: from them alone can redress for past injuries, committed by persons acting under them, be obtained: by them alone can the commission of the like in future be prevented.

“ Our relations with the other powers of Europe have experienced no material change since the last session. In our inter-

course with each, due attention continues to be paid to the protection of our commerce, and to every other object in which the United States are interested. A strong hope is entertained, that, by adhering to the maxims of a just, a candid, and friendly policy, we may long preserve amicable relations with all the powers of Europe, on conditions advantageous and honourable to our country.

“ With the Barbary States and the Indian tribes our pacific relations have been preserved.

“ In calling your attention to the internal concerns of our country, the view which they exhibit is peculiarly gratifying. The payments, which have been made into the treasury, show the very productive state of the public revenue. After satisfying the appropriations made by law for the support of the civil Government, and of the military and naval establishments, embracing suitable provision for fortifications and for the gradual increase of the navy, paying the interest of the public debt, and extinguishing more than 18,000,000 of the principal, within the present year, it is estimated that a balance of more than 6,000,000 of dollars will remain in the treasury on the 1st day of January, applicable to the current service of the ensuing year.

“ The payments into the treasury during the year 1818, on account of imposts and tonnage, resulting principally from duties which have accrued in the present year, may be fairly estimated at 20,000,000 of dollars; internal revenues at 2,500,000; public lands at 1,500,000; bank dividends

vidends and incidental receipts at 500,000; making, in the whole, 24,500,000 dollars.

“The annual permanent expenditure for the support of the civil Government, and of the army and navy, as now established by law, amounts to 11,800,000; and for the sinking fund, to 10,000,000; making in the whole 21,800,000; leaving an annual excess of revenue beyond the expenditure of 2,700,000 dollars, exclusive of the balance estimated to be in the treasury on the 1st day of January, 1818.

“In the present state of the treasury, the whole of the Louisiana debt may be redeemed in the year 1819; after which, if the public debt continues as it now is, above par, there will be annually about 5,000,000 of the sinking fund unexpended, until the year 1825, when the loan of 1812, and the stock created by funding treasury-notes, will be redeemable.

“It is also estimated that the Mississippi stock will be discharged during the year 1819, from the proceeds of the public lands assigned to that object; after which the receipts from those lands will annually add to the public revenue the sum of 1,500,000 dollars, making the permanent annual revenue amount to 26,000,000 of dollars, and leaving an annual excess of revenue, after the year 1819, beyond the permanent authorized expenditure, of more than 4,000,000 of dollars.

“By the last returns from the Department of War, the militia force of the several States may be estimated at 800,000 men, infantry, artillery, and cavalry. Great

part of this force is armed, and measures are taken to arm the whole. An improvement in the organization and discipline of the militia is one of the great objects which claims the unremitted attention of Congress.

“The regular force amounts nearly to the number required by law, and is stationed along the Atlantic and inland frontiers.

“Of the naval force, it has been necessary to maintain strong squadrons in the Mediterranean, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

“From several of the Indian tribes inhabiting the country bordering on Lake Erie, purchases have been made of lands, on conditions very favourable to the United States, and, as it is presumed, not less so the tribes themselves. By these purchases, the Indian title, with moderate reservation, has been extinguished in the whole of the land within the limits of the State of Ohio, and to a great part of that in the Michigan territory, and of the State of Indiana. From the Cherokee tribe a tract has been purchased in the State of Georgia, and an arrangement made, by which, in exchange for lands beyond the Mississippi, a great part, if not the whole of the land belonging to that tribe, eastward of that river, in the States of North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee, and in the Alabama territory, will soon be acquired. By these acquisitions, and others that may reasonably be expected soon to follow, we shall be enabled to extend our settlements from the inhabited parts of the State of Ohio, along Lake Erie, into the Michigan territory, and to connect our settle-

settlements, by degrees, through the State of Indiana and the Illinois to that of Missouri. A similar, and equally advantageous effect will soon be produced to the south, through the whole extent of the States and territory which border on the waters emptying into the Mississippi and the Mobile. In this progress, which the rights of nature demand, and nothing can prevent, marking a growth rapid and gigantic, it is our duty to make new efforts for the preservation, improvement, and civilization of the native inhabitants. The hunter state can exist only in the vast, uncultivated desert. It yields to the more dense and compact form, and greater force, of civilized population; and of right it ought to yield; for the earth was given to mankind to support the greatest number of which it is capable, and no tribe or people have a right to withhold from the wants of others more than is necessary for their own support and comfort. It is gratifying to know, that the reservations of land made by the treaties with the tribes on Lake Erie, were made with a view to individual ownership among them, and to the cultivation of the soil by all, and that an annual stipend has been pledged to supply their other wants. It will merit the consideration of Congress, whether other provision, not stipulated by the treaty, ought to be made for these tribes, and for the advancement of the liberal and humane policy of the United States towards all the tribes within our limits, and more particularly for their improvement in the art of civilized life.

“ Among the advantages incident to these purchases, and to those which have preceded, the security which may thereby be afforded to our inland frontiers is peculiarly important. With a strong barrier, consisting of our own people, thus planted on the Lakes, the Mississippi, and the Mobile, with the protection to be derived from the regular force, Indian hostilities, if they do not altogether cease, will henceforth lose their terror. Fortifications in those quarters, to any extent, will not be necessary, and the expense attending them may be saved. A people accustomed to the use of fire-arms only, as the Indian tribes are, will shun even moderate works, which are defended by cannon. Great fortifications will, therefore, be requisite only, in future, along the coast, and at some points in the interior, connected with it. On these will the safety of our towns, and the commerce of our great rivers, from the Bay of Fundy to the Mississippi, depend. On these, therefore, should the utmost attention, skill, and labour, be bestowed.

“ A considerable and rapid augmentation in the value of all the public lands, proceeding from these and other obvious causes, may henceforward be expected. The difficulties attending early emigrations will be dissipated even in the most remote parts. Several new states have been admitted into our union, to the west and south, and territorial governments, happily organized, established over every other portion in which there is vacant land for sale. In terminating Indian hostilities, as must soon be done, in a formidable shape

shape at least, the emigration, which has heretofore been great, will probably increase, and the demand for land, and the augmentation in its value, be in like proportion. The great increase of our population throughout the union will alone produce an important effect, and in no quarter will it be so sensibly felt as in those in contemplation. The public lands are a public stock, which ought to be disposed of to the best advantage for the nation. The nation should, therefore, derive the profit proceeding from the continual rise in their value. Every encouragement should be given to the emigrants consistent with a fair competition between them; but that competition should operate, in the first sale, to the advantage of the nation rather than of individuals. Great capitalists will derive all the benefit incident to their superior wealth, under any mode of sale which may be adopted. But if, looking forward to the rise in the value of the public lands, they should have the opportunity of amassing, at a low price, vast bodies in their hands, the profit will accrue to them and not to the public. They would also have the power, in that degree, to control the emigration and settlement in such manner as their opinion of their respective interests might dictate. I submit this subject to the consideration of Congress, that such further provision may be made in the sale of the public lands, with a view to the public interest, should any be deemed expedient, as in their judgment may be best adapted to the object.

“ When we consider the vast ex-

tent of territory, within the United States, the great amount and value of its productions, the connexion of its parts, and other circumstances on which their prosperity and happiness depend, we cannot fail to entertain a high sense of the advantages to be derived from the facility which may be afforded in the intercourse between them by means of good roads and canals. Never did a country of such vast extent offer equal inducements to improvements of this kind, nor ever were consequences of such vast magnitude involved in them. As this subject was acted on by Congress at the last session, and there may be a disposition to revive it at the present, I have brought it into view, for the purpose of communicating my sentiments on a very important circumstance connected with it, with that freedom and candour which a regard for the public interest, and a proper respect for Congress, require. A difference of opinion has existed, from the first formation of our constitution to the present time, among our most enlightened and virtuous citizens, respecting the right of Congress to establish such a system of improvement. Taking into view the trust with which I am now honoured, it would be improper, after what has passed, that this discussion should be revived, with an uncertainty of my opinion respecting the right. Disregarding early impressions, I have bestowed on the subject all the deliberation which its great importance, and a just sense of my duty, required; and the result is a settled conviction in my mind, that Congress do not possess the right.

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It is not contained in any of the specified powers granted to Congress ; nor can I consider it incidental to, or a necessary mean, viewed on the most liberal scale, for carrying into effect any of the powers which are specifically granted. In communicating this result, I cannot resist the obligation which I feel to suggest to Congress the propriety of recommending to the States the adoption of an amendment to the constitution, which shall give to Congress the right in question. In cases of doubtful construction, especially of such vital interest, it comports with the nature and origin of our institutions, and will contribute much to preserve them, to apply to our constituents for an explicit grant of the power. We may confidently rely, that if it appears to their satisfaction that the power is necessary, it will always be granted. In this case I am happy to observe that experience has afforded the most ample proof of its utility, and that the benign spirit of conciliation and harmony which now manifests itself throughout our Union, promises to such a recommendation the most prompt and favourable result. I think proper to suggest also, in case this measure is adopted, that it be recommended to the States to include in the amendment sought, a right in Congress to institute, likewise, seminaries of learning, for the all-important purpose of diffusing knowledge among our fellow-citizens throughout the United States.

“ Our manufactories will require the continued attention of Congress. The capital employed

in them is considerable, and the knowledge acquired in the machinery and fabric of all the most useful manufactures is of great value. Their preservation, which depends on due encouragement, is connected with the high interests of the nation.

“ Although the progress of the public buildings has been as favourable as circumstances have permitted, it is to be regretted that the Capitol is not yet in a state to receive you. There is good cause to presume that the two wings, the only parts as yet commenced, will be prepared for that purpose at the next session. The time seems now to have arrived when this subject may be deemed worthy the attention of Congress, on a scale adequate to national purposes. The completion of the middle building will be necessary to the convenient accommodation of Congress, of the Committees, and various offices belonging to it. It is evident that the other public buildings are altogether insufficient for the accommodation of the several executive departments, some of which are much crowded, and even subjected to the necessity of obtaining it in private buildings, at some distance from the head of the department, and with inconvenience to the management of the public business. Most nations have taken an interest and a pride in the improvement and ornament of their metropolis, and none were more conspicuous in that respect than the ancient republics. The policy which dictated the establishment of a permanent residence for the national government, and the spirit in which it was commenced

menced and has been prosecuted, show that such improvement was thought worthy the attention of this nation. Its central position, between the northern and southern extremities of our union, and its approach to the west, at the head of a great navigable river which interlocks with the western waters, prove the wisdom of the councils which established it. Nothing appears to be more reasonable and proper than that convenient accommodations should be provided, on a well-digested plan, for the heads of the several departments, and for the Attorney-General; and it is believed that the public ground in the city, applied to those objects, will be found amply sufficient. I submit this subject to the consideration of Congress, that such further provision may be made in it as to them may seem proper.

“ In contemplating the happy situation of the United States, our attention is drawn, with peculiar interest, to the surviving officers and soldiers of our revolutionary army, who so eminently contributed, by their services, to lay its foundation. Most of those very meritorious citizens have paid the debt of nature, and gone to repose. It is believed that among the survivors there are some not provided for by existing laws, who are reduced to indigence, and even to real distress. These men have a claim on the gratitude of their country, and it will do honour to their country to provide for them. The lapse of a few years more, and the opportunity will be forever lost: indeed, so long already has been the interval, that the number to be benefited by any

provision which may be made will not be great.

“ It appearing in a satisfactory manner that the revenue arising from imports and tonnage, and from the sale of the public lands, will be fully adequate to the support of the civil government, of the present military and naval establishments, including the annual augmentation of the latter, to the extent provided for, to the payment of the interests on the public debt, and to the extinguishment of it at the times authorised, without the aid of internal taxes; I consider it my duty to recommend to Congress their repeal. To impose taxes, when the public exigencies require them, is an obligation of the most sacred character, especially with a free people. The faithful fulfilment of it is among the highest proofs of their virtue, and capacity for self-government. To dispense with taxes, when it may be done with perfect safety, is equally the duty of their representatives. In this instance we have the satisfaction to know that they were imposed when the demand was imperious, and have been sustained with exemplary fidelity. I have to add, that, however gratifying it may be to me, regarding the prosperous and happy condition of our country, to recommend the repeal of these taxes at this time, I shall nevertheless be attentive to events, and, should any future emergency occur, be not less prompt to suggest such measures and burdens as may then be requisite and proper.

“ JAMES MONROE.
“ *Washington, Dec. 2, 1817.*”

SPANISH COLONIES.

The state of affairs in the Spanish Colonies of North and South America appears to have undergone little change in the present year; one cause of which has been the mutual debility of both parties, which may be ascribed to the weakness induced upon each by the savage manner in which war has been carried on.

Buenos Ayres, which from the beginning of the contest has constituted the principal strength of the patriot or insurgent cause, sent out a force under General San Martin, which was designed to recover the province of Chili. The General fell in with the Royalists near Chabuco, and defeated them in a general action on the 12th of February; after which a new government was organized in Santiago, the capital of Chili. The former Spanish governor of the province, Marco del Pont, was captured by the Patriots. San Martin, who arrived at Santiago on April 11, was employed in completing his conquest. The remaining royal forces were strongly posted in the harbour of Talcahuano, where five vessels were detained for the removal of the troops, should it be found necessary.

The Portuguese troops were still at Montevideo.

Early in the year there arrived by sea a person named Gregor M'Gregor, a native of Scotland, who took possession of an island called Amelia, and entitled himself General of Brigade of the Armies of the United Provinces of New Granada and Venezuela, and General-in-Chief of the Armies destined against the Floridas. He established himself in Amelia is-

land, with a crew composed of the natives of different countries; but it was generally suspected that his motive was chiefly to secure a good port, whence he might carry on a kind of piratical traffic with the persons with whom he was connected. After continuing for a considerable time at Amelia, being disappointed, it is said, of aid which he expected from Baltimore, M'Gregor and his wife left the island on the 5th of September, and sailed away in a brig. The Mexican (patriotic) flag was hoisted in the same month, and proclamations were issued, signed by Aury, Commander-in-Chief, and R. Hubbard, Governor.

The Buenos Ayres government having felt themselves aggrieved by the numerous complaints made by foreign nations against the robberies committed by South American privateers upon their commerce, published, on Aug. 16, the following official notice, addressed to all such complainants.—

“For some time past the foreign papers have been filled with complaints against our cruisers, for acting contrary to the laws of nations; but as those complaints must refer to other parts of South America as well as to ours, this government waits for information less vague as to the authors of those excesses, in order to give entire satisfaction to neutral and friendly powers. The injustice of Spain has placed us on a precipice, and involves our name in acts repugnant to our feelings. The evil originated from little caution used by the former Government in granting letters of marque, little suspecting then that bad use would be made of them; but

but the present administration has taken care to regulate every thing according to the law of nations. Latterly, one of our privateers captured two Portuguese vessels under the mistaken idea that we were at war with that power. They shall be immediately restored, in order to show that we have no other interest in the privateers than in so far as they contribute to our national defence; and that we have no other enemies but Spaniards, against whom our whole efforts are to be directed. At present, the Supreme Government has appointed a commission, which is acting incessantly in order to put a stop to the future abuses of our privateers. We hold nothing more sacred than honour, and no time shall be lost in removing all occasion for those calumnies raised by our enemies. Neither anarchical nor *sans culotte* ideas exist in South America. We did not declare our independence until interior order was completely established."

The Royal General Morillo, on the 14th of July, landed on the

island of Margareta, and sent a column of his troops to attack Porlamar, of which they took possession, after a desperate resistance. Three hundred of the Patriots were killed, and many were wounded and made prisoners. The survivors fled to the mountains. The island was surrounded with twenty Spanish ships of war; and several of the insurgent families who endeavoured to escape had already been taken.

A dispatch from Don Francisco de Orantia to Viceroy Don Juan Ruez de Apodaca, dated from Si-lao, in the government of Mexico, October 27, contains an account of his having taken prisoner Mina, the nephew of the celebrated general against the French, with twenty-five other persons, in the pass of Venadito, where Mina was at the head of 200 men, nearly the half of whom are killed. This capture appears to have been considered as of great importance by the Spanish government, which could not remain indifferent as to the possible success of the enterprise.

CHAPTER XV.

East India Affairs.

IN the close of December, 1816, a dispatch was sent from Major Lushington, commander of the 4th regiment of Madras light cavalry, to the hon. Mr. Elphinstone, British resident at Poonah, giving an account of his expedition against the Pindarces. These people had made their appearance at Sogaum early on the 25th, on which account the Major had advanced his regiment towards that place on the 26th. He reached Sogaum at seven in the morning, where he learned that a body of Pindarees, consisting of between two and three thousand, had attacked Sogaum on the morning of the 25th, and being beat off, had taken the road to Kame. Major Lushington, after making the necessary arrangements for the protection of his gun-troops and rear-guard, proceeded with 330 rank and file to Kame, where he arrived at noon, being a march of twenty miles. He halted for a short time to refresh his men and horses, and then pushed on to Pepree, where he was informed that the Pindarees were at Cowah, taking their meal. Moving on at a brisk pace, the Major surprised the enemy when within a thousand yards of them; and though they were on horseback, within two minutes, they were instantly flying in all directions. The pursuit was conducted with so much ardour during a

space of ten miles, that their loss in killed and wounded was computed at not less than 7 or 800 men, besides a great number rendered incapable of following their plundering excursions for want of horses. The only casualty left for the Major to report was, that of Captain Drake, a gallant officer, who fell by a thrust of a spear.

A Calcutta Government Gazette of the 10th of April states, that accounts from the banks of the Nerbudda of the middle of March mention that the intrepid Captain Caulfield had again distinguished himself in a successful attack on the Pindarees. Having received accurate information of the encampment of their leader, Shoikh Doleah, at the head of a large body of horse, he marched to the spot with two companies of the tenth infantry, and a squadron of cavalry, and came upon them unperceived near Hendia. The Pindarees immediately rushed into the Nerbudda with the hope of fording that river; but in the attempt a very considerable number were cut to pieces or drowned, and the chief was supposed to have fallen on this occasion.

The immediate cause of these disturbances appears to have been the irruption of a party of marauders, supposed to have been from the Mahratta frontier, which had entered the Cuttack district through

through Goomsir; and being joined by a multitude of vagabonds from the Pergunnah of Khoordah, the insurrection soon assumed an alarming character. They took the town of Khoordah, and then proceeded to Piply, situated midway between Cuttack and Jaggernaut, with a view of cutting off the communication between those two places, and particularly of securing the person of the Rajah of Khoordah, who is high-priest of the temple, and hereditary sweeper of the great idol.

The same Gazette on April the 24th proceeds to communicate information respecting Cuttack and its district. After its conquest by the British, the pergunnah of Khoordah was remarkable for its hostility to the English government; and it was found necessary for the purpose of securing temporary tranquillity to take charge of the person of the Rajah, then a young man, and retain him in custody at Midnapore. When all opposition was subdued, the Rajah was restored to his functions in the temple, and was allowed a malikanu of twenty-four per cent. being more than double the amount given in ordinary cases.

Since the above was drawn up, further accounts have been received from Cuttack up to the 16th. Captain Wallington had fortified a bungalow at Jaggernaut, and surrounded his small camp with a mud wall about seven feet high; and had thrown out wickets on every side, and was prepared against attack. On the 13th several columns of insurgents rushed forwards to assault him, but were soon obliged to retreat with loss. They made a second attack, led on

by the son of the Dewau of the Khorrdah Rajah; but having lost in the action seventeen killed and about a hundred wounded, they again hastily retired, and were pursued to the end of the town. Six were taken prisoners, from whose account it appeared that the Rajah was the mainspring of the disturbance.

Jugbundoo being informed of the defeat of the parties which had been sent against Captain Wallington, immediately pushed out to Jaggernaut at the head of some thousand insurgents; and having surrounded the fort and placed picquets in every direction, he began to erect a battery with two great guns. Captain Wallington thinking it impossible with his small force to make any impression upon so formidable a multitude, retired in the middle of the night, and reached Cuttack with his treasure on the 16th.

The Bombay Courier of April the 26th conveys information, that a large body of freebooting horse, who were encamped on the banks of the Peira, about 11 miles N.W. of Soonje Ramaney, were surprised in their camp by a detachment of the Madras army, under the command of Major Smith. Two companies of the first of the third, and the first of the second, and the flank companies of the 14th Madras Native Infantry, marched from the banks of the Beema in pursuit of a body of horse; and continuing the chase with extraordinary perseverance for four days and five nights, came up with them, just as they were preparing for a march on the 17th of April. The nature of the ground preventing the infantry from

from immediately forming a line, they poured a volley into the camp, and then broke into divisions, and marched through the camp. The freebooters got on their horses with uncommon rapidity, and formed behind their camp. As soon as the infantry had got through the camp, Maj. Smith concentrated his detachment. The horse then exchanged a few shot with the foot, and made off, leaving about 60 men, and many more horses, dead on the field.

Fort William, July 10.

Discussions having occurred between the British Government and the Government of Poona, which

threatened to shake the amity subsisting between the two States, the Governor-General in Council has the satisfaction to announce the execution of a new treaty between the Honourable Company and his Highness the Peishwa, explaining and amending the articles of the treaty of Bassein, with the addition of certain provisions calculated to improve the alliance, and to promote and render permanent the harmony which both Governments are solicitous to maintain.

By command of his Excellency the most Noble the Governor-General in Council,

J. ADAM,
Act. Chief Sec. to Gov.

July 5.

CHRONICLE.

JANUARY.

1. **T**HE number of students last year at the University of Gottingen was greatly increased; it amounts already to 1,152; of these only 386 are natives of Hanover, 566 are from other German States, and 180 foreigners; of the latter, 36 are Russians, 17 Swiss, 63 Danes, 10 English, 6 French, 25 Hungarians, 4 Americans, 2 from the Greek isle of Chios.

On Thursday, the 2d inst. the body of a woman was found tied to a boat near the landing-place of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, on which an inquest was held on the following Saturday, before Joseph Carttar, Esq. one of the coroners for Kent. The evidence being very vague, the coroner said he should not then close the inquest, but adjourn till the Tuesday following, in order that every exertion might be made to procure better information, as there was much suspicion in the case, and it was but seldom that a woman was found dead without somebody being able to give an account of her death. He also directed, that the body should be examined by a surgeon, that his opinion might be given on certain external marks which appeared on it. The jury accordingly met again on Tuesday, when several

persons came forward to identify the deceased, and among the rest an old man, who swore that the deceased was his daughter, and that she was the wife of Israel Friday, an out-pensioner of Greenwich College. He then went into a long account of a quarrel which took place between Friday and his wife, on Wednesday the 1st of January, and of their fighting in his house with a knife and a hatchet, which fight he with difficulty suppressed; and that soon afterwards both parties left his house, and he had not been able to hear of either of them since, except that he now believed the deceased to be his daughter, and that she had been murdered by somebody, and laid on the spot where the body was found. Other witnesses also swore to the deceased being the daughter of the old man. The surgeons proved that there were marks of violence on the head, &c. of the deceased, but not sufficient to be deemed mortal. This evidence, however, induced the coroner to adjourn a second time; and he directed the constables to make diligent search after Friday, the husband, and bring him before the jury on the 10th instant, to account for his wife's death, if possible. The jury accordingly met again on the 10th instant, when the constables reported that they had not been able

to find Friday, but that they had found his wife alive and hearty; whereupon the father was sent for, and the other witnesses, all of whom were greatly but agreeably surprised at the sight of the woman, and acknowledged their error in having sworn to the deceased. The coroner reprimanded the witnesses severely for their want of discrimination; but every one allowed, that the great likeness there was between the living woman and the deceased might have deceived better judges than the witnesses seemed to be, particularly as both the women had similar private marks on each arm. Under these circumstances further proclamation was made for evidence to identify the deceased, and discover how she came by her death; but none appearing, the jury returned a verdict of "Found dead, under suspicious circumstances, and with strong marks of violence on her person; but whether inflicted by accident or by design, they could not ascertain."

A letter from Lochgoilhead, dated the 3d of January, 1817, to a gentleman in Glasgow, says—"On Monday last a boat left this, in order to go to Greenock; when sailing down Lochgoil, they were hailed by a person that wanted to cross; they condescended, and, being upon the lee-shore, gave the boat the two sails, which before had but one: half way over, opposite the Waninan, came on a squall, and run the boat down by not relieving the sheets. Eight persons were on board; those that were drowned are, Archibald Campbell, Dugald Weir, Archibald Walker, Thomas Thomson's wife, the ploughman to Archibald

Campbell, Esq., Drumsaynie, a daughter of Archibald Smith, Lochgoilhead.—Saved, John Campbell, Duncan Smith, Duncan M'Glashan." Another letter says, that Duncan M'Glashan died after being got on shore.

7. We observe, with pleasure, that the condition of the numerous body of nailmakers in Staffordshire is improved by a meeting of their employers, held at West Bromwich, when it was unanimously agreed to restore their rate of wages, which had been, from the depression of that trade, partially and considerably reduced.—*Birmingham Gazette.*

8. For several hours this morning, the fog throughout the whole of the metropolis was so intense, that candles were used in every shop and counting-house.

11. From the crowded state of the foreign seamen in the Helder, lying off the Tower, Government has given directions for another vessel to be prepared for their reception. The Helder was calculated to be capable of containing nearly 300; but as more than that number have been sent on board, sickness has made its appearance, from the crowded state of the miserable objects.

On Monday week, Dennis Murphy, of Limerick, sawyer, assisting a constable in executing a sessions decree at Rathmore castle, in that county, was attacked by a number of fellows, who in the most savage manner beat him, and inflicted several wounds on his body, of which he died on Wednesday. Thursday an inquest was held on the corpse, and a verdict of wilful murder returned against the perpetrators. Two men charged

charged with this outrage, Thomas Stubbins and Darby Fennell, are lodged in gaol by David Roche, Esq.—*Waterford Mirror*.

From the Westmeath Journal.—On Saturday the 11th instant, at six o'clock in the evening, the house of the Rev. Mr. Serjeant, curate of the parish of Castlerahan, and an active magistrate of the county of Cavan, was entered by a party of ten persons, who tied the servants, and collected all the property worth carrying away; after which they deliberately boiled the tea-kettle, and passed the evening in drinking tea and punch, waiting the arrival of Mr. Serjeant. On Mr. S. returning he heard a noise, and on asking, "who is there?" two men immediately fired at him, which he attempted to return, but his pistol missed fire. Fortunately the arms of the robbers were so injudiciously loaded, that five slugs which hit him in the body, and perforated his two coats, waistcoat, and shirt, did him very little injury. On Mr. S. falling, the fellows supposed he was killed, and immediately joined their party in the dwelling-house, and carried off all the clothes, house linen, and 30*l.* in money. The same party then proceeded about three miles to the deer-park of Lord Farnham, and entered so quietly through the thatch of the house of Robert Morrow, permanent sergeant of the 1st Ballyjamesduff corps of yeomanry, as to be at his bedside before he was apprized of their being in the house. He then seized a firelock which was near his bed, and knocked down two of the party, and his wife gallantly tumbled another, when he

received a shot which broke his left arm near the wrist, and the same moment it was broken above the elbow by a blow with a firelock; he also received a shot in the other arm that quite disabled him. Both he and his wife were then so dreadfully beaten as to be left for dead; when the villains proceeded to plunder the house, and decamped, after having robbed him of more than 80*l.* in gold, besides much other property.

Drogheda, Jan. 18.—Our feelings are again outraged, in being under the painful necessity of recording a transaction of the most diabolical nature, which took place on Thursday evening near Ardee. The following particulars we have learned from a gentleman. Mr. J. Rath, a respectable and wealthy farmer, and an excellent member of society, returned on the above evening, from the quarter-sessions of Ardee, to his house at Irish-town, on the Dunkald road, and about a mile and a half from the former place. Having sat down in his parlour with two friends to dinner, the table lay in front of the window; one of his guests sat a little distance on his right, the other on his left; it was then between seven and eight o'clock, and the shutters were not closed. In this situation some hellish miscreant discharged the contents of a blunderbuss loaded with slugs, which carried off the upper part of his head, and scattered the brains of the unfortunate victim about the room; neither of the other persons, we understand, were injured. One of his friends shortly afterwards went to Ardee and informed the police, who, with the military, were in pursuit of
the

the murderer during the night, but unfortunately did not come up with him. Friday an inquest was held by Dr. Blackwell, one of the coroners of the county, and a verdict of wilful murder found against persons unknown.

15. *Coroner's Inquest on the late John Harriott, Esq. of the Thames Police Office.*—An inquest was held before J. W. Unwin, Esq. one of the coroners for Middlesex, on the body of this lamented and respected magistrate, of which the following are the leading facts and circumstances :—

Mr. Harriot for nine months past had been afflicted with a disease in the bladder, which subjected him to continual paroxysms of excruciating pain, often attended with profuse hemorrhage. On Friday morning last, about four o'clock, his medical attendant (Mr. Holloway) was sent for, who found him in such exquisite pain, that the deceased requested this gentleman to relieve him at all events, even if the means should terminate in death. Mr. Harriott was then placed in a warm bath. At eight o'clock the same morning this gentleman was again sent for ; he found Mr. Harriott bleeding from several self-inflicted wounds in different parts of his body. On the left temple was a slight wound, which had divided a branch of the temporal artery. In the left arm, below the elbow, was another wound, about two inches long, and about the fourth of an inch deep. The veins only of the arm were injured, and the artery untouched. The last, and most serious wound, was in the abdomen, over the stomach, through which a portion of the

intestines had protruded. This wound would have been mortal in most cases, from the subsequent inflammation, but was not considered so in the present instance, owing to the profuse discharge of blood. On dissection after death, by order of the coroner, the bladder was found highly ulcerated, and filled with coagulated blood, which, by the able practitioners who attended, was considered as the immediate cause of death.

It was proved, that during the last fortnight, the faculties of the deceased were greatly impaired, and his mind overcome by dejection, from a continued series of pain and suffering.

The coroner called the attention of the jury, in the first place, to the statement which had been given as to the situation of the deceased's mind and understanding, and left it to them to decide, whether he had contributed to his own death, or had come to his end by natural means from the effect of his complaint.—Verdict, Natural Death.

20. The number of vessels which entered the port of Hamburgh in the course of last year amounted to 1,615 ; of these 702 were from England, 84 from France, 3 from the East Indies, 37 from the West Indies, 40 from North America, 9 from South America, &c. The number of ships which passed the Sound during the same period was 3,871 ; of these 1,848 were British : the Swedish were next in point of numbers, the French only 16, the Americans 168.

21. The elder Watson was put upon his trial at the Old Bailey, upon the charge of having stabbed Joseph

Joseph Rhodes with a sword concealed in a stick ; when it appearing that Rhodes was not able to swear that the wound was inflicted by design, but rather in a nocturnal scuffle, Watson was brought in *Not guilty*.

The grand jury afterwards returned a true bill against James Watson the elder, John Hooper, Thomas Preston, and Thomas Cashman, on a charge of conspiracy and riot.

27. The following letter has been sent by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to the Lords Lieutenants of several counties :—

Whitehall, Jan. 11.

My Lord—It being deemed expedient, under present circumstances, that the civil power should be strengthened in the county under your grace's charge, I have to request that you will recommend it to the magistrates in the principal towns within the same (in which the measure is not already adopted), to encourage the enrolment of respectable householders, to act, as occasion may require, as special constables, for a fixed period of time, not less than three months ; and I have further to request that your grace will communicate to the commanding officers of the several yeomanry corps within the county of Leicester, the wish of his Majesty's government, that they would hold themselves, and the corps under their respective commands, in a state of preparation to afford prompt assistance to the civil authorities, in case of necessity.

I have, &c. SIDMOUTH.
The Lord Lieutenant of the
county of Leicester,

Wednesday morning, about one o'clock, the Leicester cavalry, and a regiment of dragoons, were called out to quell a riot at Oadby, near Leicester. There were about 400 rioters, who dispersed themselves after three of the leaders were secured : these have since been sent to the gaol of the latter place. Several corn and haystacks were set on fire, but were extinguished by the military.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cumberland having been for some time past in daily expectation of giving birth to a child, the two physicians, Sir Henry Hallford and Dr. Clarke (the latter of whom is an eminent accoucheur) have been constant attendants upon her Royal Highness. In compliance also with the formality maintained at a royal birth, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London have remained in town, that they might, when called upon, be present at the shortest notice. The proper arrangements being thus settled, it was announced yesterday morning between nine and ten o'clock, that her Royal Highness was taken in labour. Summonses were presently forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, the Lord Chancellor, and the rest of the Cabinet Ministers. The Duke of Cumberland sent his own chariot for the Lord Chancellor ; and here some delay was occasioned by the coachman driving to Bedford-square, instead of the Court of Chancery, where the learned lord was of course sitting, it being term-time. In the meanwhile, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had kept a carriage in readiness for the occasion, made
such

such haste as to be at Cumberland-house by twelve o'clock, within twenty minutes after his receipt of the summons. In a few minutes the Bishop of London also arrived, and immediately after him came the Lord Chancellor and the Cabinet Ministers. The same ceremonies were observed as at the delivery of a queen of England, and about one o'clock her Royal Highness was delivered of a still-born child.

In a short time the following bulletin was drawn up, and issued, for the satisfaction of the public :—

“ *St. James's, Monday, Jan. 27.*

“ Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cumberland was delivered at one o'clock this day of a still-born female child, and is as well as can be expected.

“ HENRY HALFORD,

“ CHARLES M. CLARKE.”

Johanna Southcote.—The delusion at this time practised upon the believers in the predictions and doctrines of the late prophetess is matter of great astonishment. An interdict arrived at Newark on Sunday, the 19th instant, from a disciple of the conclave at Leeds, inhibiting those of the faith, amongst other things, from attending to their ordinary business during the ensuing eight or nine days ; and a manufacturer's shop in that place is at this time entirely deserted, and the business of many small dealers suspended in consequence.—*Lincoln Mercury.*

From the London Gazette, Tuesday January 28.

By his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the united

kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty,

A PROCLAMATION.

George, P. R.

Whereas, by an act passed in the 56th year of his Majesty's reign, entitled “ An Act to provide for a new silver coinage, and to regulate the currency of the gold and silver coin of this realm,” it is amongst other things enacted, that from and after such days, and during such period of time, as shall be named and appointed in and by any proclamation or proclamations which shall be made and issued for that purpose, by or on behalf of his Majesty's Privy Council, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons to bring and deliver into his Majesty's Mint any silver coin of this realm heretofore coined and current, which shall by any officer or officers of the said Mint, to be appointed for that purpose by the Master of the Mint, be judged and deemed to be such silver coin of this realm, and that there shall be delivered out of the said Mint to every person bringing in and delivering such old silver coin, a sum in new silver coin, of crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, to be coined, pursuant to the directions of the said act, equal to the amount of the silver coins brought in and delivered as aforesaid, according to the respective denominations of such silver coins : and whereas, We have thought fit in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, to name and appoint the 3d day of Feb. now next ensuing, as the day from and after which, and from thence

thence until the 17th day of Feb. then next ensuing, as the period of time during which it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons to deliver into the said Mint any such old silver coin of this realm, and as the day from and after which, and as the period of time during which, there shall be delivered out of the said Mint, new silver coins equal to the amount of the silver coins that shall be so brought in, pursuant to, and under the directions of the said act; We do for this purpose, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice aforesaid, publish this proclamation, and do hereby name and appoint the 3d day of February now next ensuing, as the day from and after which, and from thence until the 17th day of February then next ensuing, as the period of time during which it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons to deliver into his Majesty's said Mint any such old silver coin, and the said 3d day of February now next ensuing, as the day from and after which and from thence until the 17th day of February then next ensuing, as the period of time during which there shall be delivered out of the said Mint new silver coins, as in the said act is mentioned, pursuant to the regulations and directions thereof.

Given at the Court at Brighton, the 18th day of January, 1817, in the 57th year of his Majesty's reign.

PROCLAMATION.

George, P. R.—Whereas on the twenty-eighth day of this instant month of January, divers persons, riotously assembled, and stationed

in different places in the city of Westminster, proceeded to commit certain daring and highly criminal outrages, in gross violation of the public peace, to the actual danger of our Royal Person, and to the interruption of our passage to and from the Parliament: We therefore, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, in pursuance of an address from the two houses of Parliament, do hereby enjoin all magistrates, and all other his Majesty's loving subjects, to use their utmost endeavours to discover and cause to be apprehended the authors, actors, and abettors concerned in such outrages, in order that they may be dealt with according to law: And we do hereby promise, that any person or persons, other than those actually concerned in doing any act by which our Royal Person was immediately endangered, who shall give information, so as that any of the authors, actors, or abettors concerned in such outrages as aforesaid, may be apprehended and brought to justice, shall receive a reward of one thousand pounds, to be paid on conviction of every such offender; which said sum of one thousand pounds the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury are hereby required and directed to pay accordingly: And we do further promise, that any person or persons concerned in such outrages as aforesaid, other than such as were actually concerned in any act by which our Royal Person was immediately endangered, who shall give information, so that any of such authors, actors, or abettors

abettors as aforesaid, shall be apprehended and brought to justice, shall, upon conviction of such offender or offenders, receive his Majesty's most gracious pardon.

Given at the court at Carlton-house, the twenty-ninth day of January, 1817, in the 57th year of his Majesty's reign.

FEBRUARY.

1. A dispatch has been received from Governor Farquhar, containing a detailed account of the late destructive fire at the Mauritius, from which it appears that 19 streets of Port Louis were entirely consumed, and that the sections of that town, numbered 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, were either totally or partially destroyed. The fire was purely accidental, and its destructive ravage is to be attributed to its having occurred at the dry season of the year, and to the prevalence of a strong breeze, veering with violent gusts from time to time during the conflagration. Fortunately, from its breaking out early in the evening, few lives were lost; but a population of 20,000 persons have been reduced to want and beggary by the loss of every thing belonging to them. Among the public buildings destroyed are, the Catholic church, the barracks for the blacks, hospital for the blacks, prisons for the blacks, large grain-magazine, the colonial marine store-house, the public bazaar, the commercial exchange, and building called the Bourse, the government printing-office, the former post-office, the police pri-

sons, the military prisons and guard-houses, the quartermaster-general's-office and store-houses, the out-houses of the government-house, the great cooperage, the timber and mast-yard, the weighing-yard, the guard-house in front of the military hospital, and the guard-house of the marine. A detailed account of the names of proprietors whose houses have been destroyed may, it is announced, be inspected at the Colonial Department.

6. A murder was committed near Saltley, near Birmingham, on the body of Mr. Pennington, of the firm of Pennington and Bellchambers, wine-merchants, of London. Mr. Pennington was on his way to Coventry, via Castle-Bromwich, in his gig, and was waylaid on the road about a mile beyond Birmingham. He was found with a pistol-shot through his temple, and quite dead. The assassinating villains had taken his gold watch and the contents of his pocket of silver, &c. but fortunately abandoned the object of their fury without discovering his pocket-book, which contained bank-notes of several hundred pounds' value. The horse and gig went several miles before it stopped, and then it was by overturning. The doleful tidings were communicated to Mrs. Pennington by a friend in London, who bore it with as much fortitude as could possibly be expected, under the afflicting circumstances. She is left a widow with six children, (the eldest is only 13) and is far advanced in her pregnancy of another.

A murder was committed at Ledbury, accompanied by circumstances

stances of the most barbarous and savage ferocity. William Harris, hostler at the New Inn, got up about 4 o'clock in the morning to brew, and was in the act of lighting a fire, it is supposed, when some villain who had concealed himself unexpectedly rushed upon him, and with a hatchet, which he found on the premises, almost split his head in two! It was evident that the wretch must have repeated his blows, and he afterwards cut the throat of the hapless victim from ear to ear! The smock-frock the deceased wore, and a silver watch, maker's name B. Balingford, Liverpool, No. 1818, were taken from his person, and with this booty only the murderer decamped. The body of the poor sufferer was discovered about five o'clock, still warm, with some signs of respiration, but he expired soon afterwards. He was stretched at length on the brew-house floor, with his feet under the copper furnace. He was a very industrious and careful man, and had the preceding day paid the rent of his mother's house; and the idea that this money was about his person, it is imagined, led to the perpetration of the murder. A man was on Friday apprehended in a public-house, at Worcester, on suspicion of being concerned in the horrible crime, and conveyed to Ledbury, where several others are in custody.

8. A rare and beautiful appearance of the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, was observed in Derby and its neighbourhood. This singular phenomenon took place about eight o'clock, and continued without intermission for a full half hour, during the whole of which time the sky was illu-

minated from the horizon to the zenith, extending east and west for a considerable distance. Broad streaks of light, of various sizes, rose from the horizon in a pyramidal undulating form, and shot with great velocity up to the zenith; they changed their forms very frequently and rapidly, and broke out in places where none were seen before, shooting along the heavens, and then disappearing in an instant. The sky in various places was tinged for a considerable space with a deep purple, and the stars shone very brightly during the whole time through the clouds which formed the Aurora Borealis. A short time after this singular phenomenon had ceased, the rain began to descend, and continued to do so most of the night, though not violently.

Supplement to the London Gazette.
Wednesday, Feb. 12.

By his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty.

A PROCLAMATION.

George, P. R.

Whereas, by an Act passed in the 56th year of his Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to provide for a new silver coinage, and to regulate the currency of the gold and silver coin of this realm," the Master and Worker of his Majesty's Mint in London was authorized and empowered to coin, or cause to be coined, silver bullion into silver coins, consisting of crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, of the standard of 11 ounces and 2 pennyweights of fine silver, and 18 pennyweights alloy, to the pound troy, and in weight

weight after the rate of 66 shillings to the pound troy.

And whereas, in virtue of the powers so given, a coinage of half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, at the rate of 66 shillings to the pound troy, and of the standard of fineness above-mentioned; every such half-crown piece having for the obverse impression the head of his Majesty, with the inscription, "Georgius III. Dei Gratiâ," and the date of the year; and for the reverse, the ensigns armorial of the united kingdom, contained in a shield, surrounded by the garter, bearing the motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense," and the collar of the garter, with the inscription, "Britanniarum Rex Fid. Def." with a newly-invented graining on the edge of the piece, every such shilling and sixpenny piece having for the obverse impression the head of his Majesty, with the inscription, "Georgius III. D. G. Brit. Rex F. D." and the date of the year; and for the reverse, the ensigns armorial of the united kingdom, contained in a shield surrounded by the garter, bearing the motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense," with a newly-invented graining on the edge of the piece, has been completed, and is now ready to be delivered for the use of his Majesty's subjects; we have therefore, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, thought fit to issue this proclamation; and we do hereby ordain, declare, and command, that the said pieces of silver money shall from and after the 13th day of this instant February, be current and lawful money of the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and shall pass and be received as

current and lawful money of the said kingdom, that is to say, such half-crown pieces as of the value of two shillings and sixpence; such shilling pieces as of the value of one shilling; and such sixpenny pieces as of the value of sixpence, in all payments and transactions of money.

And we do hereby, in further pursuance of the powers given to his Majesty by the said Act, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, further proclaim, ordain, and declare, and name the said 13th day of this instant February as the day from and after which so much and such parts of the Act made in the 14th year of his Majesty's reign, entituled, "An Act to prohibit the importation of light silver coin of this realm from foreign countries into Great Britain or Ireland, and to restrain the tender thereof beyond a certain sum," as enacts or provides, or may be construed to enact or provide, that any tender in silver coin of the realm shall be legal to the amount of 25 pounds, or a tender for any greater sum according to its value by weight; and also so much of any Act or Acts whereby the said last recited Act is continued, revived, or made perpetual, shall be repealed, and the same are by virtue of the said first recited Act, and this our proclamation, repealed accordingly.

And we do hereby, in further pursuance of the powers given to his Majesty, by virtue of the said first recited Act, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, proclaim, ordain, declare, and name the said 13th day of February as the day from

from and after which no tender or payment of money made in the silver coin of this realm of any sum exceeding the sum of 40 shillings at any one time shall be reputed a tender in law, or allowed to be a legal tender within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, either by tale or weight of such silver coin, or otherwise howsoever.

Given at the Court at Carlton-house, the twelfth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, in the fifty-seventh year of his Majesty's reign.

12. In the march of a detachment of our Indian army, under the command of Sir Geo. Holmes, from Baroda to Palempore, in the territories of his Highness the Guicawar, two young officers of the 56th regiment were amusing themselves, during a halt, by snipe-shooting. They had been beating the jungles on the banks of a river, and one jungle they had repeatedly tried in vain. They were, however, surprised by a tremendous roar, and the sudden spring of an enormous tiger from this very jungle. Lieutenant Wilson, on whom the animal sprung, upon his recovery stated, that he neither saw, nor heard, nor felt more, than that the monster's mouth was close to his own. His companion, Lieutenant Smelt, saw the tiger spring; he gave a backward cat-like stroke with his paw, and on Wilson's fall, he smelt to him, paused for a moment, and then leapt off as a cat would have done if disturbed at a meal. Smelt expecting Wilson had been killed, reached the camp, and immediately sent the dooley (a sort of palanquin) bearers to the spot. They found the gentle-

man alive, but insensible: his flesh had been torn away from the head downward to the lower part of the back, and a wound also on the thigh; in all 19 wounds. A half-eaten buffalo was found in the jungle: luckily for Wilson the tiger had dined. We are happy to add, that the wounded gentleman is now living and well: both the sportsmen will be rather more cautious, in future, how they go snipe-shooting in India.—*Calcutta Paper*.

13. A most shocking murder was committed between 9 and 10 o'clock, upon the person of the Rev. Mr. Longuet, at Pangbourn, near Reading, in Berkshire. Mr. Longuet was a Roman Catholic priest, and a teacher of the French language, residing at Reading. On Thursday last he paid a visit to the family of Thomas Morton, Esq. who resides about six miles from Reading. Mr. Longuet quitted Mr. Morton's house between 8 and 9 o'clock: previous, however, to his quitting it, Mr. Morton came to the door with him, and, observing that it was a very dark night, endeavoured to persuade him to continue there all night. This hospitable offer, however, was unfortunately for the poor gentleman rejected, accompanied by these words—"I know the road very well; and although it appears very dark now, it will be much lighter to me when I get from the light of the candle." He then bade Mrs. Morton a good night, and pursued his journey. He had not proceeded many miles before he was attacked by some villains, who barbarously murdered him, apparently with some sharp instrument; for, when he was found on Friday morning, his head was nearly severed from his body,

body, and he was dreadfully mangled, cut, and stabbed in various parts of the body. His body was cut open, and in his heart were no less than five stabs, supposed to have been inflicted by a bayonet: this circumstance, it is hoped, will lead to the detection of the perpetrators. It does not appear that the unfortunate gentleman had much property about him. The magistrates in the neighbourhood have been very active in publishing handbills of the circumstances, and in offering rewards for the apprehension of the inhuman delinquents.

14. Commitments to the Tower for the crime of high treason against Watson, senior, Preston, Hooper, and Keen, alias Kearns, were drawn up and signed by twelve Cabinet Ministers and Privy-Counsellors, and they were accordingly sent to the place of confinement.

From the London Gazette, Tuesday, February 18.

By his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Name and on the Behalf His Majesty.

A PROCLAMATION.

George, P. R.

Whereas on the 6th day of December last, a reward of 500*l.* was, by and under our authority, offered for the apprehension of James Watson the younger, late of Hyde-street, Bloomsbury, surgeon, who then stood charged upon oath on a violent suspicion of having wilfully and feloniously attempted to kill and murder Richard Platt, on Monday the 2d day of December last, by firing a loaded pistol at, and desperately

wounding the said Richard Platt: and whereas a bill of indictment has since been preferred and found by the grand jury of the city of London, against the said James Watson the younger, for the said offence: and whereas the promise of the said reward of 500*l.* for the apprehension of the said James Watson the younger, was, by and under our authority renewed, on the 22d day of January last; but the said James Watson has not yet been apprehended: and whereas the said James Watson the younger, and Arthur Thistlewood, late of No. , Southampton-buildings, Chancery-lane, stand charged upon oath with high treason, committed by them and sundry other persons, now in custody in the Tower of London: We, therefore, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's privy council, do hereby enjoin all magistrates, and all other his Majesty's loving subjects, to use their utmost endeavours to discover and cause to be apprehended the said James Watson and Arthur Thistlewood, in order that they may be dealt with according to law. And we are hereby pleased to renew the said promise of a reward of five hundred pounds, so made on the said 6th day of December, and renewed on the said 22d day of January last, to be paid upon the said James Watson the younger being apprehended and lodged in any one of his Majesty's gaols. And we do hereby promise to any person or persons who shall discover and apprehend, or cause to be discovered and apprehended, the said Arthur Thistlewood, the like sum of five hundred pounds, to be paid

paid in like manner, upon the said Arthur Thistlewood being apprehended and lodged in any one of his Majesty's gaols: and we do hereby strictly charge and command all persons upon their allegiance, not to receive or harbour the said James Watson and Arthur Thistlewood, or either of them: all persons offending herein will be thereby guilty of high treason. And we do hereby promise a like reward of five hundred pounds to any person who shall discover and apprehend, or cause to be discovered and apprehended, any person so receiving or harbouring the said James Watson and Arthur Thistlewood, or either of them: to be paid upon the conviction of the person or persons so receiving or harbouring as aforesaid; which said several sums of five hundred pounds the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury are hereby required and directed to pay accordingly.

Given at the Court at Carlton-house, the 18th day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, in the fifty-seventh year of his Majesty's reign.

The above-named James Watson is a surgeon by profession, and has been employed in that capacity on board a Greenland ship: he is a young man, apparently about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, but is only twenty; dark hair, rather pale complexion, five feet five inches high, has a mark or mole with a few hairs on it, on his left cheek bone near the eye, the left eyelid rather dropping over the eye, very faint remains of small-pox in his face, has rather a wide

mouth, and shows his teeth (which are very black) when he laughs; he sometimes wore a brown great coat, black under coat, black waistcoat, drab breeches, and long gaiters; and at other times he wore a black coat and waistcoat, blue pantaloons, and Hessian boots: his appearance shabby genteel: he formerly lodged in Hyde-street, Bloomsbury.

Arthur Thistlewood is about 45 years of age, 5 feet 11 inches high, has a sallow complexion, long visage, dark hair (a little grey), small whiskers, dark hazel eyes, and arched eyebrows, a wide mouth, and a good set of teeth, has a scar under his right jaw, is slender made, walks very upright, and has much the appearance of a military man; was born in Lincolnshire, and apprenticed to an apothecary at Newark, and has been a lieutenant in the army: he usually wore a French grey-coloured coat, buff waistcoat, grey-coloured Wellington pantaloons, with Hessian boots under them, and at times a dark brown great coat.

19. So rapid and extensive has been the exchange of the old silver for the new coinage, that the large hall given exclusively by the Bank of England for the public accommodation was yesterday nearly empty, and three-fourths of the persons employed for the purpose of exchange were left entirely idle. No old coin appears in circulation. Thus, in a few days, an extensive coinage has been put into circulation, without creating the least confusion.

Particulars of the wreck and plunder of the *Inverness*, Captain Leitch, in the river Shannon, loaded

loaded at Limerick with a cargo of provisions, on account of Mr. E. D. Hanmer's contract with the Victualling Board, and bound to London.

*From Captain Miller of the Police to Mr. Spaight, Merchant, Limerick.
Kilrush, Feb. 24.*

Dear Spaight.—As I am now in possession of most of the particulars of the wreck of the *Inverness*, I shall detail them to you, as follows:—

She went on shore on Wednesday night, the 19th instant, mistaking Rinevaha for Carrigaholt, and would have got off by the next spring-tide, had the peasantry not boarded and rendered her not sea-worthy, by scuttling her, and tearing away all her rigging: they then robbed the crew of all their clothes, tore their shirts, which they made bags of, to carry away the plunder; and then broached the tierces of pork and distributed the contents to people on shore, who waited to convey them up the country. The alarm having reached this on Thursday, a serjeant and 12 of the police were sent down, with the chief constable at their head, and they succeeded in re-taking some of the provisions and securing them, driving the mob from the wreck. The police kept possession of what they had got during the night; but very early on Friday morning the people collected in some thousands, and went down to the beach, where they formed into three bodies, and cheered each other with hats off, advancing with threats, declaring that they defied the police, and would possess themselves again of what had

been taken from them, and of the arms of the police: the police formed into one body, and, showing three fronts, endeavoured to keep them at bay, but in vain: they assailed them with stones, sticks, scythes, and axes; and gave some of our men some severe blows, which exasperated them so much, that they were under the necessity of firing in self-defence, and four of the assistants fell victims, two of whom were buried yesterday. During their skirmishing, which began about 7 o'clock, one of the men, mounted, was dispatched to this town for a reinforcement, when Major Warburton, in half an hour, with 20 cavalry and a few infantry mounted behind them, left this, and in one hour and a half were on board the wreck, and took 12 men in the act of cutting up the wreck: one of them made a blow of a hatchet at Major Warburton, which he warded off, and snapped a pistol at him; the fellow immediately threw himself overboard, when ——— Troy charged him on horseback up to the horse's knees in water, and cut him down. The fellows then flew in every direction, pursued by our men, who took many of them, and wounded several. Nine tierces of pork had been saved. Her bowsprit, gaff, and spars, are all gone, with every stitch of canvass, and all the running rigging. The shrouds are still left: two anchors and their cables are gone, and even the ship's pump. A more complete plunder has seldom been witnessed. Yesterday the revenue-wherry went down to Rinevaha, and returned in the evening with the Major and a small party, with thirty-

thirty-five prisoners, who now are all lodged in Bridewell. The women, in multitudes, assembled to supply the men with whisky to encourage them. Nothing could exceed the coolness of ———— Ballice and his party, who certainly made a masterly retreat to the slated store at Carrigaholt, where I found them. He and Fitzgerald were wounded, but not severely: Fitzgerald had a miraculous escape, and would have been murdered, but was preserved by a man he knew, from Kerry, who put him under his bed, &c. &c. (Signed)

J. MILLER.

MARCH.

1. *Treves*.—The 29th of February was a day of terror to us. About 1 p. m. a dreadful storm arose, accompanied with thunder, lightning, snow, and rain. A thunderbolt fell perpendicularly on the church of St. Paulinus, one of the finest in Germany, and in less than an hour the whole building was in flames. The steeple, and the whole of the roof, which was of combustible materials, were consumed: the interior of the church happily escaped.

The bears have appeared in much larger number than usual, between Irkutsk and Nerischinsk, in Siberia, 12 or 1,500 leagues from the capital of Russia. They penetrated with fury into the hamlets and remote habitations, the inhabitants of which had for a time much difficulty in repelling their attacks. About Werehne

Oudensk near 400 of these ferocious animals were killed.

RIOTS IN SOMERSETSHIRE.

(From a private Letter.)

Radstock, near Bath, March 2.

On Friday last, the colliers in the neighbourhood of Radstock and Paulton collected in a number of about three thousand, and manifested some very serious symptoms of riot and destruction to the pits and the buildings annexed to them, which spread the greatest consternation through the whole neighbourhood. Sir John Hippisley, accompanied by his brother magistrates, and several gentlemen, repaired to the spot, where he pointed out to them, in an impressive speech, the enormity of their offence. He read the Riot Act: it had no effect. They then proceeded, and took possession of several of the works, and sent persons down into the pits to compel those who worked in them to be drawn up, and then administered an oath not to work any more until their grievances were redressed, and threatened that night to demolish the works. Sir John and the magistrates sent immediately for a troop of the 23d Lancers at Bristol, and the North Somerset Yeomanry, part of which arrived, and kept order for that night, and by day-break the whole of the North Somerset Yeomanry were on parade at Stone-Easton-house, and other places pointed out to them, so as to render assistance at every point where danger was apprehended. About nine o'clock Sir John Hippisley, accompanied by a numerous assemblage of magistrates and gentlemen, proceeded

ceeded to Paulton, where these men were said to be, who, on hearing of the approach of the military, retired to Clandown coal-pits, and being pursued, retired to Radstock, where they made a stand, well furnished with immense bludgeons, and on seeing the cavalry approaching, gave three cheers, and called out, 'Bread or Blood; Hunt for ever!' The cavalry here came up, and filing off to the right and left, surrounded them, when Sir John Hippisley and the magistrates came into the centre, and addressed them to the following effect:—He wished to know what they wanted? They replied, 'full wages, and that they were starving.' Sir John informed them, that the mode they had now adopted, by thus unlawfully assembling, was the very way to prevent any grievances they complained of being attended to: that he and his brother magistrates were determined to do their duty, and do it they would. Sir John stated to them, he was well informed, and knew, that their minds were inflamed by the disaffected, not only in speeches, but by parodies on the liturgy of the church, endeavouring not only to seduce them from their King, but from their God.

Previous to Sir John Hippisley's reading the riot act, he informed these infatuated men, that if they continued and remained one hour after the act was read, it would subject every person remaining to the sentence of death. He then read the riot act, when four of the principal of these deluded men were secured, and sent to Ilchester prison, escorted by a

detachment of the North Somerset yeomanry cavalry, when the remainder dispersed.

It has been deemed necessary to station part of the 23d dragoons at Paulton and Radstock, and the yeomanry will be kept on duty for a few days longer on their respective parades.

Sir John then, in a speech to the yeomanry, by the request of the magistrates and gentlemen present, returned them sincere thanks for the alacrity with which they assembled, and expatiated on the utility of this valuable description of force; and was happy in being able to assert from the first authority, that the yeomanry would be considered as forming a part of the peace establishment: 'To you, Gentlemen of the North Somerset Yeomanry, it would be utterly impossible for me to give that well-earned and merited praise you are so justly entitled to on this as on all former occasions; your appearance and steadiness under arms has been acknowledged by all the general officers under whom you have done your duty. The thanks you have so often received from the general of the district, the corporations of Bath and Bristol, the lieutenantancy and magistrates of this county, are a convincing proof of your value.'

Another Account.—A tumultuous and disorderly proceeding commenced on February 28th, amongst the colliers at Paulton, who, in consequence of an arrangement amounting to a reduction of one-tenth of their wages, refused to work. This irregular step was but too readily followed by

by the miners in several of the neighbouring collieries, who, being assembled in considerable numbers, were collectively and most impressively addressed by that active magistrate, Sir J. Cox Hippisley, Bart. but they did not seem disposed to separate until the riot act had been read; in consequence of which they dispersed, and order seems completely restored. A reward of 20 guineas is offered for the discovery of the principal mover of this most ill-advised procedure.—*Bath Chronicle*.

Paulton, Tuesday night, March 4.
—It is with great pleasure we state, that all the colliers in this and the neighbouring mines are pursuing their usual employment with great satisfaction and content; and it is hoped and believed that their late misconduct is now become matter of most serious regret. A number of most inflammatory publications had been sold by a higgler at Paulton (where the mischief originated.) The leaders were arrested; but the poor wretches who followed them, we believe, were perfectly innocent of any bad design. We would, however, caution them to avoid those blasphemous and seditious publications which have caused their riotous conduct; and recommend them to look to their masters as their best friends. We are assured that there is not a collier-master in Somerset who at present puts a penny a year in his pocket; they must lose at the reduced prices, but they look forward to better times.”—*Ditto*.

6. A melancholy accident happened in the lead mines belonging to Messrs. Horner, Hurst, and Co. Leadhills, in the forenoon of the

1st instant, occasioned by the air being rendered impure from the smoke of a fire-engine, placed about 100 feet under-ground. As soon as the danger was ascertained, two miners and the company's blacksmith descended to the relief of their neighbours below, when unfortunately the two miners perished in the humane attempt. Many of the miners who were at work at the time were violently affected, almost to suffocation, but are now out of danger. We have since learned, that in all seven lives have been lost by this melancholy accident.—*Edin. Paper*.

Fatal Duel.—Of the duel between Lieut. Hindes and Lieut. Gilbert Conroy, of the 90th regiment, in garrison at Plymouth, the Plymouth paper contains the following further particulars:—“It took place near Plympton-Mary Bridge, the 8th inst. about seven o'clock in the morning, and the former officer received a wound that terminated his existence in the early part of the following day, at the London Inn, in Plympton Eade, whither he was conveyed after the duel. It appeared on the investigation before the mayor of that borough, who sat as coroner *virtute officii*, and a very respectable jury, that the affair had been a long time in agitation; but the cause of the dispute did not transpire. This investigation occupied two days, when the jury brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Mr. G. Conroy and Mr. Alexander Stewart, who attended the deceased to the field. There was nothing to implicate Mr. Conroy's second, whose name the jury could not discover. The duel was fought at

the short distance of nine paces. The ball entered the right side of the deceased, between the tenth and eleventh ribs, and penetrated to the convex surface of the right lobe of the liver, where it lodged, carrying with it a piece of the great coat worn by the deceased. Notwithstanding the severity of the wound, it is remarkable that the deceased did not fall, but with little assistance he walked to a gig in waiting; and on arriving at the London Inn, Plympton, even walked up stairs to the bedroom, by merely leaning on the shoulders of two persons, one on each side of him. Being asked why he had not fallen, he bravely replied, that it required a good knock to put him down; and that he was not a white feather. He spoke in the highest terms of his adversary. Such traits of firmness and magnanimity make us regret the more this fresh sacrifice on the shrine of false honour, in which are unhappily involved the fates of a widow and two children, who have to lament the untimely loss of their natural protector, as well as the peace of mind and future prospects of the other persons concerned in this melancholy business."

9. Early this morning a dreadful fire broke out in the stables of the Bull Inn, Bishopsgate-street. As water could not be procured for some time, the flames made great progress, and soon destroyed the stables and warehouses, with all the property in the latter. The east gallery of the inn, containing several beds, was nearly destroyed. Some property was stolen, particularly a pocket-book belonging to a clerk, which contained up-

wards of 40*l*. The premises were insured. The east wing of the Excise Office once caught, but the wind changing, it was not seriously injured. The Green Dragon Inn sustained some damage. Mr. Mellish, who lives on the spot, was very active in his exertions on this unfortunate occasion.

10. *State Prisoners*.—The following regulations are adopted in the Tower, respecting the persons confined under charges of high treason:—Each prisoner is kept in a separate apartment, and night and day two yeomen, or warders, continue in the room, the door of which is locked, and on the outside a sentinel is placed to prevent the approach of any one, except those in the governor's establishment. Their beds and board are provided by the government. No person is allowed to see the prisoners, unless a special order is sent to the lieutenant-governor by the clerk of the council, and then they are restricted from holding any communication, except in the presence and hearing of some persons appointed by the lieutenant or his deputy. A special order has been granted for Watson's solicitor to see him twice a week, under the restrictions abovementioned. The prisoners are not charged jointly, but there is a separate commitment for each individual, signed by twelve members of the privy council, directing the lieutenant of the Tower to receive the accused into his custody.

The intelligence that has arrived from the higher districts of the Grisons excites the most lively fears. Never were the snows in greater quantity: the tops of the houses are no longer seen, and

some

some of the roofs have fallen in, from the weight of the snow. Some villages, particularly in the valley of Tavesch, are entirely abandoned. A frightful avalanche has destroyed the village of Nue-ras in this valley. By reports from Dissentis, a little distant from that village, eleven houses and mills, along with the inhabitants and stables, have been swallowed up. On the 8th, the rector and 24 other persons, wounded, were dug out of the rubbish alive. Many dead bodies were likewise found, and 28 persons are still missing. Avalanches have likewise caused frightful disasters in the valley of Dischmah. We learn likewise from the canton of Uri, that at Meyen, an avalanche overwhelmed two men, and that another threatened the village of Realp. The passage of Mont St. Gothard is shut up.

On the 10th, an avalanche destroyed a house at Gadmenthal, in the province of Bern. The news from the Tyrol are equally afflicting: four avalanches have succeeded each other in one place. At Nanders, the snow filled the whole valley to the height of a tower. At Ischgel, in the Pinzgau, 21 houses were destroyed. At six leagues from Inspruck, ten persons were killed. The course of the Inn is interrupted.

ARRESTS AT MANCHESTER.

(From *Manchester Papers*.)

After a meeting for reform on the 3d instant, reports were circulated, that, like the Bilston colliers, who some time ago set off with two carts of coals for the purpose of dragging them to Carlton House, it was intended to

have another meeting, previous to which the people were to supply themselves with blankets and other articles necessary for bivouacking on the road; and after this the whole were to set off on "a journey to London." The report gained but little credit till Saturday last, when the following bill was posted through Manchester:—

Public Meeting.—The Inhabitants of Manchester and its vicinity are respectfully informed, that a Public Meeting, according to adjournment, will be held near St. Peter's church, on Monday morning, the 10th of March 1817, when it is hoped that every person who is determined to carry his petition to London, will assemble peaceably and orderly, and provide himself with the necessary means of support requisite to bear him through this loyal and necessary undertaking.

It is hoped that those friends of parliamentary reform who possess the means, will come forward on this important occasion.

Persons will be appointed to receive contributions this evening, at New Islington, and at the meeting on Monday.

(Signed) W. OGDEN, Printer,
26, Wood-street.

Placards had been stuck up, and hand-bills distributed. The people of Stockport were invited to join those of Manchester, on Lancashire Hill. Several emissaries were at work during the week, making every effort to inflame the public mind, and to engage a large mass to assemble on the day appointed. It was insinuated, that 25,000 stand of arms at Birmingham might be secured. Information of these

these proceedings was sent to the Secretary of State's office; and a magistrate and king's messenger arrived with warrants, and four persons were apprehended on Sunday. The printer of the foregoing placard was arrested, and conveyed to prison; and at the same time Orator Johnstone was put into safe custody. A meeting, however, took place at New Islington, Salford, on Saturday evening; and early on Monday there were preparatory meetings at Middleton, Oldham, and other places, to provide the pecuniary means for a march to the metropolis.

On Monday, about nine in the morning, a crowd began to assemble in front of the Quakers' meeting-house, Manchester.

Meanwhile the commander of the district, Sir John Byng, and the magistrates, had taken precautions. The Stockport troop had orders to meet; two troops from Macclesfield, and three from Knutsford, were also directed to be at Sale Moor (the usual spot for reviews near Manchester), so as to be in readiness to act in case of emergency.

Another Account. — Tuesday, March 11.—We find it was among the notifications at the meeting on the 3d instant, near St. Peter's church, corroborated in the course of last week by the declarations of individuals who have been actively engaged in promoting the late seditious meetings, that the espousers of their doctrines should collect at the same place the Monday following, and proceed to the metropolis, at nine o'clock, to present a petition to the Prince Regent, that they might be enabled to 'undeceive him.'

Aware of these intentions, and of the dangers which an immense influx of strangers, irritated by the inflammatory appeals of their factious leaders (who, under the pretence of promoting parliamentary reform, have been for a length of time past agitating the minds of the labouring class of society), portended, the conservators of the public tranquillity took every precaution adequate to the occasion.

Yesterday morning, according to the expectations entertained, crowds of people flocked into town from all directions, as early as eight o'clock; and, at about nine, the instigators appeared on their temporary stage in a cart, and continued to harangue the multitude, till their vast increasing numbers suggested the expediency of putting into practice the well-formed arrangements of the civil and military powers. Accordingly, a party of the first regiment of dragoons, under Colonel Teesdale, accompanied by the magistrates of the district, appeared amongst them, and immediately conveyed the entire group to the New Bailey prison: their attention was next directed to the concourse of auditors, who were forthwith dispersed, without the infliction of any severity.

An arrest had taken place early on Sunday morning, of Johnston and Ogden, who had previously figured at this place; and they were secured in the New Bailey. Others were seized by the soldiers on their way to deliver their charge in Salford.

A considerable number of people set out on their mission to London, taking the route of Stockport;

port; but about 40 of them were re-conducted to Manchester, and added to their other unfortunate companions; others were furnished with secure accommodations in Stockport. Most of them were provided with knapsacks, &c. containing blankets and other articles. Upon the examination of some of these travelling equipages, two unusually large knives were discovered.

We shall desist from entering further at present into the cases of these characters, as they will probably hereafter be the subject of high judicial inquiry.

The military preparations were under the direction of Sir John Byng, the commander of the district, who arrived in Manchester on Sunday. A party of the 54th regiment of foot were present, to render their assistance.

No particular act of outrage or intemperance has yet reached our ears; and we cannot help feeling highly indebted to the judicious and salutary interposition of the respective authorities, for the satisfactory result of this day's transactions.

Macclesfield Courier-Office, March 10.—On Sunday morning the magistrates of Manchester deeming it necessary to strengthen the military force in that neighbourhood, in consequence of the declared intent of some thousands of the population to proceed in person to Carlton House with a petition to the Regent, forwarded expresses to the several troops of the Prince Regent's Regiment of Cheshire yeomanry cavalry, requiring their immediate aid. The same evening five troops marched into Manchester, and the remaining

three troops were disposed in Stockport and Macclesfield, to prevent the suspected progress of the petitioners in that direction.

Early on Monday morning the streets of Manchester were crowded by thousands, of whom a great part were prepared with blankets and bundles for the march to London: by the activity of the magistrates, however, and the military at their disposal, every one most active in haranguing the multitude, all who had the appearance and character of ring-leaders, were arrested and imprisoned on the spot. This cautionary measure, for the possibility of which we are indebted to the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act, disorganized the plans of the petitioners to such an extent, that a few thousands only, who eluded by obscure passages the vigilance of the soldiers, succeeded in penetrating to the bridge of Stockport, and here they were encountered by a troop of the life guards, and a troop of the Macclesfield squadron of the Prince Regent's yeomanry. No attempt was made to force the bridge, but many threw themselves into the river, and crossed it wherever it was fordable. This circumstance, added to another, that the streets of Stockport were literally wedged full of the inhabitants of the vicinity, constrained the troops to withdraw from the bridge, over which of course the petitioners had afterwards a free passage. In the thoroughfare of the town, however, all those who had prepared themselves with the necessities of a march (commonly comprising a blanket and a few days' provision) were arrested, partly by

by the laudable activity of the Stockport police, and partly by the alertness of the military force; and were in the course of the day dispatched under escort to the New Bailey Prison at Manchester. The persons apprehended might be 200 in number: one individual was so severely wounded that his life is despaired of. Not more than 500, out of the many thousands assembled in the morning, penetrated so far as Macclesfield, where a troop of the yeomanry had remained to provide against such a contingency; and we have authority, on which we can rely, for positively stating, that no more than 20 persons proceeded from Macclesfield into the adjoining county of Staffordshire.

Nothing could be more wretched and pitiable than the appearance of the few who reached this town; some actually fainting from weariness; and all of them without baggage, or any apparent resource, with which to proceed 20 miles further towards London.

15. *Batavia*.—According to accounts of three weeks' date received from Banjoewangie, the mountain of Idjeng, about 24 leagues from that place, has been burning since the middle of January, and its effects have spread alarm and distress among the inhabitants of the surrounding country. During the night of the 23d of January a violent explosion took place. Vast columns of fire, smoke, and burning matter, then began unceasingly to ascend, accompanied with noise like thunder or the firing of heavy artillery. From the mountain all the way to Banjoewangie, an immense quantity of ashes, stones, and sulphur, cover the sur-

rounding country, destroying the vegetation, and laying waste a great number of rice-fields, the crops on which were some in a most promising state, and others quite ripe. The explosions shook the ground all the way to Banjoewangie. The atmosphere was so filled with ashes and the vapour of sulphur, that respiration was extremely difficult, and for some days there was scarcely any daylight at Banjoewangie. The greater part of the birds have died; and it is said that the fish in the rivers are also all dead. Large trees and pieces of rock detached from the mountain rolled down with a dreadful noise, and destroyed cottages, bridges, and every thing that stood in their way; occasioning also such inundations that in some places the river rose 14 feet above the usual height. The roads are consequently covered with water, and rendered impassable. The unfortunate inhabitants fled from all quarters towards the coast and towards Banjoewangie.

Accounts of a posterior date are more tranquillizing. For some days the people of Banjoewangie had observed no more fire from the mountain, but still saw an immense quantity of smoke ascending, and the atmosphere continued loaded with sulphurous vapour and fine ashes. The inundations also continued, and fears are entertained that a great scarcity must follow. Many of the inhabitants suffer from indisposition, occasioned, it is thought, by drinking the impure water, which is every where filled with ashes. Severe coughing is also a general complaint, in consequence of the strong sul-

sulphurous vapours. A great mortality prevails among the cattle.

In the district of Gabang, belonging to the residency of Cheribon, a hill sunk down on the 27th of February, and eight families were buried alive with it. There had long been a chasm in this hill, which being enlarged by the rain, probably occasioned a separation to take place.

During the night of the 4th of this month, a similar sinking occurred in the district of Talaga, in consequence of which several houses with their inhabitants were buried. A recently cultivated rice-field and the half of an upland plantation were also destroyed.

20. A sect of Christians, deviating from the Greek church, has sprung up in the south eastern parts of the Russian empire, and a rescript has been issued by the Emperor Alexander, containing directions for its treatment. The converts to the new faith are said to have been already driven from their homes, and placed in an insulated situation in order to prevent proselytism. They are called *Duchoboozi*: and the rescript, which is addressed to the military governor of Cherson, is to the following effect:—

“The sect having been removed from the Ukraine to the circle of Melitsholsk, in the Tauris, in consequence of the blameable way of life imputed to them, and to prevent their opinions from spreading, and they having petitioned for protection from oppression, the Governor is directed to consider the motives of this removal, which is said to have been ordered by the Emperor, with a view at once to protect the sect from improper

mortifications, and to stop the spreading of their opinions: and the Government, not having received for many years any complaints from one side or the other, or other reports of disorders, had every reason to suppose that the measures adopted were sufficient.

“The departure of this sect from the true faith of the Græco-Russian Church is stated to be a deviation founded on some erroneous representations of the true worship, and of the spirit of Christianity; but as they are not without religion, for they seek for what is divine, though not with a right understanding, it does not become a Christian Government to employ harsh and cruel means, torture, exile, &c. to bring back to the bosom of the church those who have gone astray. The doctrine of the Redeemer, who came into the world to save the sinner, cannot, it is said, be spread by constraint and punishment; cannot serve for the oppression of those who are to be led back into the paths of truth. All the measures of severity exhausted upon the *Duchoboozi*, in the course of 30 years, up to 1801, were not able to extirpate this sect, and only increased the number of its adherents. They are, therefore, in future to be protected from unmerited insults on account of the difference of their faith. By being removed to another settlement they would again be placed in a hard situation, and be punished on a mere complaint, without examination.

“The colony is therefore recommended to the special superintendence and particular care of the Governor; who, without regarding false allegations or pre-conceived

conceived opinion, is to examine into all the local circumstances; their way of life; their conduct; and take care of them, as an impartial Governor who studies the good of those who are confided to his care. The fate of these settlers must be permanently secured: they must feel that they are under the protection of the laws: and then, but not before, his Imperial Majesty says, "We may expect from them attachment and love to the magistrates." But, it is added, if these sectaries "seek to draw away others from the established church, and to injure them with their own religious notions, then the energy of the law must be exerted against such violators of it, and such illegal conduct must be checked." But even then it is not allowable, that, on account of one or more criminals who are convicted of a violation of the law, the whole colony, which has had no share in it, should be made responsible. Such complaints and accusations require a careful examination, from whom the complaint comes, and what may be the motives of it. Thus the two Duchoboozi named in your representation, who after their return to the true church, accused this society of various transgressions, and deposed to their blameable way of life, may have done this out of malice or revenge: perhaps they were excluded from the society for crimes, or deserted it from a contentious and inimical spirit. Such mere complaints, which deserve altogether no attention, must never induce the adoption of severe measures, which may be followed by the arrest, imprisonment, and torture, of those

who are not yet convicted of any bad intention, or any crime."

APRIL.

7. Friday morning as the steam-packet from Norwich to Yarmouth was pushing from its moorings, the vessel blew up; eight persons were killed; seven had almost every limb broken; the whole were thrown in different directions, and to a considerable distance. Of the seven taken to the hospital, there is not the least chance of two living.

(*From the Norwich Paper.*)—One of those unfortunate accidents which attend even the best arranged establishments, that carry with them a certain, though remote, danger, occurred here yesterday morning; and we state the extensive calamity with much acute pain. The horrible spectacle of eight mangled carcasses is yet before our eyes. These are the miserable victims of the bursting of the steam-boiler in the packet which sails from the Foundry bridge. Just after the boat had started, it had not gone twenty yards when the tremendous explosion took place. The vessel was rent to atoms, so that little remains entire, from the stern to the engine-room, except the keel and the flooring. Twenty-two passengers appear to have been on board. The bodies of eight are found, five men and three women; one child yet missing; and six have been sent to the hospital in a wounded state: six escaped unhurt. Of these last, one man was standing over the boiler when the explosion happened. It is said

said Major Mason was another, whose clothes were torn by the shock, but who was otherwise uninjured. The third was an infant, two months old, and the little innocent was discovered at the bottom of the vessel in a profound sleep, after the removal of the dreadful wreck. At this moment the Coroner's inquest is sitting, and we have only time to subjoin the names of the dead: James Squires, of Gorleston; — Marcon, a linen-draper; — Butler, of Pockthorpe; Wm. Nicholson, the steersman of the boat; Mrs. Smith, who lived near the Norfolk and Norwich hospital; Eliza Stephens, of Yarmouth; a man unknown, in a sailor's dress, from Lynn, apparently between 50 and 60, with his legs torn off; a young woman, name unknown, who stated that she had been to Hingham for relief. The infant was her child!

The following statement, given in the same paper, shews the causes which must have produced the accident:—

The boiler is a cylindrical vessel, lying fore and aft the vessel, about 8 feet long, and 4 feet in diameter, made of wrought iron, excepting one end, which lay towards the stem of the vessel, and is of cast iron.

In consequence of the stress of steam being greater than the boiler was capable of sustaining, the cast-iron part of the boiler gave way, and flew in a direction towards the stem of the vessel; on which taking place, a stress immediately falls on the boiler itself, to throw it out of its situation, the stress depending on the magnitude of the orifice occasioned by the

fracture, and consequently it was thrown in an horizontal direction, out of the stern of the vessel, sweeping all before it in its passage, to a distance of about fifteen yards; at the same time that the concussion of the air and steam completely unroofed the vessel from one end to the other.

11. *Lausanne*.—The annual meeting of the General Benevolent Society will take place at Zurich on the 22d and 23d instant. Never since its institution have there been such multiplied and urgent calls for its assistance. In several of the eastern cantons of Switzerland want is at its height; and scarcity, joined with unwholesomeness of food, has caused a great number of deaths. Measures for restraining the exportation of corn and potatoes from one canton to another have become general; and governments, which were for a long time averse to recognize principles contrary to a free commerce, stipulated in the federal act, have been forced to follow that example set them by others, of which they had disapproved. The government of Zurich is in such circumstances as to be obliged to refuse to their neighbours of St. Gall, Thurgovia, Glaris, and Zug, the exportation of potatoes. It was permitted till now, but several parts of the canton have not a sufficient supply for planting their fields.

The frightful state to which the canton of Glaris is reduced, which only lately displayed industry, comfort, and happiness, is described in the work of the Minister Heer. At the present time no labouring person, however industrious, can earn more than four kreutzers a day. It is frightful to see with
what

what avidity skeletons of men devour the most disgusting aliments, dead bodies, nettles and food which they dispute with the brute creation. In this dreadful destitution, the inhabitants cannot secure themselves from humidity or cold. In some houses twenty persons occupy one room, and labour with hollow and half-extinguished eyes in a contagious atmosphere. Beds are out of the question; a wretched sack of dried leaves is the best couch of these miserable persons.

These old men, deprived of consolation, and bereft of the attention of friends, left a prey to famine and sorrow, have no other resource but tears; or, falling into sickness, and under the agonies of a burning fever, pant for a drop of whey, which they cannot always obtain.

Suspicious Fires.—About twelve o'clock on Saturday night last, a most tremendous fire broke out on the premises in the occupation of Messrs. Lungley and Brewer, at Abbott's-hall Farm, Great Wigborough, in this county, which, in a short time, entirely consumed the whole of the farmery, standing upon nearly two acres of ground; also in the barns, wheat, the produce of 25 acres, a large quantity of oats, and also of beans, which had lately been taken in: three stacks of beans, and two of hay, which were standing in the yards, were likewise consumed, with all the farming implements, including waggons, tumbrels, plough and cart harness, a thrashing machine, and much other property, used in so extensive a concern. The live stock, which was confined in the yards, was released, excepting a calf, several pigs, and the poultry, which were burnt.

Such a lamentable scene of destruction has not been witnessed since the fire at Norton-hall, in Purleigh; the flames, as on that occasion, were seen at a great distance. The estate is the property of Mr. Cline, the surgeon. Whether the buildings are insured, we are unacquainted; the tenants are fortunately insured, although much under the extent of their loss, in the Phoenix fire-office. The damage is estimated at 4,000*l*. The engine belonging to the Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society was dispatched with all possible expedition, and arrived in time to save the house; but, from the dryness of the season, the flames gained so great an ascendancy, as to counteract every exertion to prevent destruction to the other property. There is too much reason to conjecture that the fire was wilfully occasioned; and it is hoped that justice will, ere long, overtake those concerned in such a villanous and diabolical deed.—*Chelmsford paper*.

On Friday morning, about ten o'clock, a fire broke out upon the premises of a farm at Aspeden, near Buntingford, occupied by Mr. Wm. Eling, which in a very short time consumed the whole of the buildings, with the exception of the dwelling-house.

On Saturday evening, about eight o'clock, a most alarming fire broke out at a farm, at Weston, near Baldock, in the occupation of Mr. Farr, which raged with unabated fury until the whole of the buildings (with the exception of the dwelling-house) were completely destroyed; five horses, three cows, and as many calves, fell victims to the devouring element.

ment. Unfortunately the direction of the wind was such as to carry the scattered pieces of flaming timber towards another farm, occupied by Mr. Winney, the buildings of which caught fire; and although every assistance was given that was practicable, this farm was doomed to share the same fate as the former, the whole of the buildings being burnt to the ground, except the dwelling-house. At this dreadful fire, a great quantity of corn, both in the barns and in stacks, &c. was destroyed; no less than eleven barns stood upon those farms, and the premises altogether are said to have covered four acres of ground. It is painful to add, there is little doubt but that this catastrophe was the work of some villain or villains yet undiscovered.—*Cambridge paper.*

On Friday morning last, between ten and eleven o'clock, a fire was discovered in the house of Mr. Joseph Sharpe, of Great Wrating, which, from being a thatched building, was nearly destroyed, together with great part of its contents. The premises were insured in the Suffolk fire-office; but from information received, there is strong reason to suspect it was wilfully set on fire.—*Ibid.*

12. *St. Petersburg.*—On Easter Sunday there was published a very remarkable imperial mandate, in favour of the Jews who are converted to Christianity. The following are some of the chief articles:—

“ 1. All Jews embracing the Christian religion, no matter of which confession, shall have privileges granted them, whatever

profession they may adopt, suitable to their knowledge and abilities.

2. In the northern and southern governments, lands shall be assigned them gratis, where such as please may settle at their own expense, under the name of Society of Jewish Christians.

3. This society shall have its own privileges.

4. At St. Petersburg a board shall be formed, of which Prince Alexander Golyzin shall be president, under the denomination of “Board for the Affairs of Jewish Christians;” on which, and on no other magistrates (except in criminal cases), the society of Jewish Christians depends.

5. This Board is bound to attend to every thing relating to the settlements, and to report on it to the Emperor. In the settlements of the Jewish Christians, which are given them as hereditary property for ever, the society can carry on any kind of professions, build cities, villages, or single dwellings; the lands are given to the whole community, but not to individuals, and cannot be sold or mortgaged to strangers. In these settlements the Jewish Christians and their posterity have entire religious liberty in the Christian confession of faith which they embrace. The society is under the immediate protection of the emperor, and depends entirely on the Board in St. Petersburg, to which alone it will give account. No other local magistracy shall interfere with them; their preachers are only under the Board. The internal government of the society is under an administration of the Society of the Jewish Christians, consisting of two superiors and four

four adjuncts, chosen by the society from its own members, and confirmed by the Board. It manages the internal concerns, the police, &c. and has a particular seal. It may expel improper members, and receive new ones, but must report on this to the Board. The members of the society obtain the rights of citizens in the Russian empire. They may carry on trade at home and abroad, conformably to the general laws; establish manufactories, &c. without being registered in any guild. In their settlements the society may brew beer, distil brandy, &c. They are free from billeting of troops, and for twenty years from taxes; are not bound to military service, &c. Foreign Jews who, after embracing Christianity, join such a community, may leave the country when they have paid their debts, and the legal contributions for three years, on the capitals which they have acquired in Russia." This regulation excites the more attention, because it is well known that our ambassadors in Germany are expressly ordered to give no more passports to those who desire to emigrate.

The following are the particulars of the shocking catastrophe which took place at a Lunatic Asylum, at Fifehead-house, near Taunton, on Sunday the 13th inst.—

A Captain Fleming, a half-pay officer in the army, was placed under the care of Mr. Gillet, the proprietor of this Asylum, about five years ago, and remained a patient under his care about three years, when he was pronounced sane, and consequently suffered to resume his functions, and at per-

fect liberty to go where he pleased: however, he preferred remaining a lodger at that place, because he said he received every civility and respect there, and he knew of no place where he could be more happy. Mr. Gillet had an invitation a short time since to go to Exeter, and to take Captain Fleming with him, together with another gentleman, also a lodger there. Captain Fleming made some excuse, and declined accompanying them, and in the interim wrote a letter to an old brother officer, a Captain Miller, late paymaster and agent to the Stafford Militia, then residing in London, requesting the favour of seeing him: that he had many things to communicate to him, particularly of a pecuniary kind; that he was getting in years, and purposed making his will; that he wished him to be present, as he intended to give him a power of attorney to transact business for him, and he pressed him to come immediately. In consequence of this request, Captain Miller arrived at the Asylum before mentioned, on Sunday the 12th instant, about noon. It was impossible a more friendly meeting could apparently have taken place: they dined together with the family, talked over their old campaigns (they were both advanced in years, Captain Fleming 74, and Captain Miller 65;) both appeared uncommonly cheerful. Mrs. Gillet, knowing that Fleming had written to his friend Miller to come to him on business, caused them to be left alone: they remained only a short time, and then adjourned to Fleming's bed-room. In about ten minutes afterwards, (at about half-

half-past two), the keeper heard a noise which alarmed him, but he thought it might be a patient up stairs, who is sometimes very high, as he termed it; however, he ran up stairs, and when about half way distinctly heard the report of a pistol. On entering the room it was full of smoke, and the first thing he saw was Captain Miller lying on the floor in the agonies of death: he attempted to lift him up, but he instantly expired. A pistol lay within two feet of him. About five or six feet from Miller lay Fleming, on his face, and the vital spark had left him also. Another pistol lay about the same distance from him, and a three edged sword on the bed close by. On a more minute examination, in which Mr. Rich, a surgeon, attended, it appeared that a pistol had been fired by Fleming at Miller, who had been sitting in a chair at a table in the act of writing, having his spectacles on, and a pen in his hand; that Fleming stood behind him, as the ball had entered a little below the left shoulder blade; that the pistol not having had the immediate effect intended, Fleming made use of the sword, and pierced his friend in the body, as many as seven or eight times, and then, with another pistol, shot himself through the head. It might naturally be inquired, how came these destructive weapons in the room? It appears that at the time Captain Fleming was brought to the Asylum, all his trunks, &c. were deposited there, and the keys given to the proprietor, who, on his patient being pronounced sane, returned every thing to him again,

without ever having examined the contents of his trunks, in which, unquestionably, lay those deadly weapons. Fleming wrote two letters on Saturday the 12th inst. and left them in a drawer in his bed-room, addressed to the Rev. Mr. Gale, a visiting magistrate of the Asylum, which alone were sufficient to prove his insanity.

13. The University Debating Club, held at the Red Lion inn, in Cambridge, having been dissolved by the personal interference of the Proctors, by command of the Vice-Chancellor, a petition against this interference, signed by several Masters of Arts and Noblemen, as members of the club, has been presented to his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, as Chancellor of that University.—*Evening Paper.*

14. *From a Liverpool Paper.*—Last week Mr. John Wright, who has of late delivered religious lectures, and held meetings for worship on Unitarian principles, in the Long Room, Marble-street, (a place which has been frequently occupied by different denominations of Christians during the last 23 years), was summoned, on three informations, to appear before the magistrates, on the charge of holding meetings for worship in a place not duly registered. Mr. Wright attended at the Town Hall on Saturday last, at the appointed time, when the Mayor (John Wright, Esq.) and Alderman Nicholson took their places as the sitting magistrates. They were afterwards joined by Alderman Sir W. Barton.

The first information was then read, relative to a meeting for worship

worship being held in the Long Room, on Tuesday the 1st of April.

The informer on this charge was Reece Davies, of the *Liverpool Courier Office*; who, being sworn, gave evidence of the statement in the information.

The second information was then read, which made a similar charge for Sunday the 6th of April.

The informer on this charge also was Reece Davies; who, being again sworn, gave evidence of the statement in that information.

The third information was then read, which made a similar charge for Tuesday the 8th of April.

The informer on this charge also was Reece Davies; who, being again sworn, gave evidence of the statement in that information.

In answer to some questions from the bench, and Mr. Statham, town clerk, as to the nature of the prayers, &c. Reece Davies stated, that they were similar to those usually made in other chapels.

Mr. Wright then being called upon for his defence, stated, that in a life of more than fifty years, he had never knowingly violated any of the laws of his country. He had reason to believe that the room in which his meetings were held was duly registered, as it had been used for worship about twenty years: and indeed, he conceived, that if the place were not registered, yet, as he had always been informed that it was, he could not be supposed to have offended against the statute, as its penalties

were directed against those who knowingly hold meetings for worship in places not registered. He then produced some written evidence from a most respectable quarter, stating at what time, and by whom, and for whom, the place had been certified to the Bishop's Registrar at Chester. There had not been sufficient time allowed to procure a certificate from Chester, but he doubted not he could do so in a few days. The bench then agreed to adjourn the business to that day week, when the official evidence was to be produced.

The penalty incurred in this case would be, not exceeding 20*l.* on each information, nor less than 20*s.*—one half to the informer.

During the above examination, Mr. Wright, alluding to some disorderly conduct in the Long Room during worship on Tuesday the 8th, stated, that the individual whom he meant to charge with that disorder had refused at the time to give his address. He had since learnt, however, that his name was Scott, and he would now ask Reece Davies whether he knew that person. Being answered in the affirmative, he farther demanded his full name and address: when Scott himself being in the court, was required to give it—which was, James Scott, of Liverpool, merchant, No. 11, Clayton-square. Mr. Wright then declared his intention immediately to prosecute him, under the 12th clause of an Act 52 Geo. III, for disorderly conduct during worship on the above evening.

The business on which Mr. Wright was summoned being now for

for the present concluded, Mr. Wright was about to depart, when Mr. Statham rose and informed him he had now to bring forward a charge of a more serious nature.

Mr. Wright.—I was summoned for a particular purpose, which I have attended to, and am not bound to attend to any other business.

Mr. Statham.—Sir, this is an information upon which you will now be taken into custody. You are charged with blasphemy.

He then read an information on the evidence of James Scott, (the identical person Mr. Wright had just stated his intention to prosecute for disorderly conduct,) which, being duly sworn to, charged Mr. Wright with having expressed and conveyed to his hearers the idea “that a belief in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was absurd and ridiculous—that it was folly to believe in what was called the atonement of the death of Jesus Christ, as it was impious to suppose that a good being would take an innocent victim to atone for the sins of the wicked—that as the idea of the soul surviving the body was an absurd and ridiculous mental delusion, that the idea of a future state was equally so.” Mr. Statham then informed Mr. Wright, that his proceedings had been watched; that the Mayor had sent persons for the purpose to the Long Room every evening, since he had advertised his meetings in the *Liverpool Mercury* of the 28th of March; and that it was at the Mayor’s instance that the informer on this charge (Scott)

had now attended to give evidence.

Mr. Wright.—Why, Sir, the sentiments *I delivered* are legal by Act of Parliament; and the last charge is an entire falsehood, and contrary to all my sentiments.

Mr. Statham.—That you must show in another place. You must give bail for your appearance at the next Assizes at Lancaster; yourself in 200*l.* and two sureties in 100*l.* each. [Mr. Wright was then placed in custody of the constables, and put to the bar as a prisoner.]

Mr. Wright.—But, Sir, I must know under what law I am charged with this.

Mr. Statham.—Under no particular Act, but under the law of the land.

Mr. Wright.—Under what law of the land?

Mr. Statham.—Under the common law.

Mr. Wright.—Under what common law? Have you never seen the Act of Parliament, lately passed, which tolerates the exercise of religious opinions, which were before not permitted?—To this no answer was given.

Mr. Wright.—But if I be arrested, and held to bail, contrary to the provisions of an Act of Parliament, can I not claim indemnity?

Mr. Statham.—You can adopt what steps you think proper.

Two friends of Mr. Wright, who happened then to be in the court merely as spectators, offered themselves as the required bail. One of them (Mr. F. B. Wright) in describing his residence,

dence, stated, that it was near Anne's Church. The Mayor and Mr. Statham instantly asked was it not *Saint Anne's Church*? Mr. F. B. Wright said he had spoken of it in the usual way, and had casually omitted the word *Saint*. He did not know of such a *Saint* in Scripture, nor did he believe such an omission was criminal. Mr. Statham said, "Sir, I suspect you purposely omitted the word." Mr. F. B. Wright here claimed the protection of the Court.

Mr. Wright.—I have now, Mr. Mayor, offered my bail, and of course claim my liberation.

Mr. Statham.—You must give twenty-four hours notice of your bail, and inquiries must be made into its sufficiency. Bail is not a matter of course. You may be kept in custody a week, Sir, for aught you know.

Mr. Wright.—I am certain, Sir, that if a short time were allowed, so that this business could be made known out of doors, I should have bail offered which the Mayor must know would be sufficient.

Here another friend of Mr. Wright stepped forward and said, Mr. Mayor, if only a few minutes be allowed before you leave the hall, I am sure I can produce for Mr. Wright the most respectable bail to any amount.

Time was allowed. Mr. Wright was removed in custody to the Jury Room, having objected to be sent down amongst persons charged with crime; and, in about fifteen minutes, Mr. Wright's friend returned with two gentlemen, whose surety was not a moment objected to. Mr. Statham asked them if they were acquainted

with the nature of the charges against Mr. Wright. He then read the information. One of the gentlemen remarked, that with Mr. Wright's religious creed he was not acquainted, but on his integrity he would venture his property. The other observed, that he agreed in the sentiments imputed to Mr. Wright, with the exception of the last, which he did not believe Mr. Wright ever espoused.

Mr. Wright was then liberated, and his departure from the Hall was only impeded by a number of other friends, eagerly pressing in to offer themselves his bail.

18. Came on at Holyrood-house, Edinburgh, the election of one of the sixteen peers, in the room of the Earl of Rothes, deceased. The Candidates were the Marquisses of Tweeddale and Lothian. Present—Marquis of Tweeddale, Marquis of Lothian, Earl of Moray, Earl of Home, Earl of Haddington, Earl of Wemyss and March, Earl of Findlater, Earl of Leven, Earl of Marchmont, Lord Gray, Lord Torphichen, Lord Elibank, Lord Rollo. Total 13. Proxy—Lord Belhaven to the Earl of Wemyss and March.

There were also 37 signed lists from peers.

After the votes were called, the Marquis of Lothian was declared duly elected; there being for the

Marquis of Lothian . 33

Marquis of Tweeddale 18

Majority . . 15.

The following noblemen voted for the Marquis of Lothian:—

Duke of Buccleuch, Duke of Atholl, Duke of Montrose, Duke of

of Roxburghe, Marquis of Queensberry, Marquis of Tweeddale, Earl of Morton, Earl of Caithness, Earl of Moray, Earl of Home, Earl of Strathmore, Earl of Kellie, Earl of Haddington, Earl of Dumfries and Bute, Earl of Elgin, Earl of Findlater, Earl of Leven, Earl of Balcarras, Earl of Aboyne, Earl of Dunmore, Earl of Marchmont, Earl of Glasgow, Earl of Portmore, Earl of Hopetoun, Viscount Arbuthnot, Viscount Dunblane, Lord Forbes, Lord Gray, Lord Sinclair, Lord Somerville, Lord Napier, Lord Forrester, Lord Elibank. Total 33.

For the Marquis of Tweeddale:—Duke of Gordon, Duke of Argyll, Marquis of Lothian, Earl of Errol, Earl of Eglington, Earl of Cassilis, Earl of Lauderdale, Earl of Kinnoul, Earl of Wemyss and March, Earl of Kintore, Earl of Aberdeen, Earl of Stair, Earl of Roseberry, Lord Torphichen, Lord Blantyre, Lord Reay, Lord Belhaven, Lord Rollo. Total 18.

18. On Friday two gentlemen appeared, by appointment, before the magistrates of London, in general quarter sessions, at the sessions hall, in the Old Bailey, as members and officers of the Academical Society held in Chancery-lane, and produced the books of regulations, list of members, &c. together with a petition for a license. The magistrates present were the Lord Mayor, with Aldermen Sir John Perring, Sir William Domville, and Joshua Jonathan Smith. Their petition, which was duly presented and read, prayed for a license, “for the investigation and discussion of philosophical, literary, historical, and po-

litical subjects, as heretofore,” at the rooms of the society.

Some question arising upon the word political, the following discussion took place:—

Lord Mayor.—What class of political questions forms the subject of your debates?

Petitioners.—Politics generally, my lord, under the restrictions specified in the books in your lordship’s hands, and subject to the approval or rejection of a council. We are ready to produce our books, and give any information that may be required.

Alderman Smith.—This is too general; it would admit unlimited discussion, and open a door to debates of the most improper tendency.

Petitioners.—Reference to our list of members, and printed rules, will remove all fear of abuse. This society has existed above nineteen years, with unimpeached character; and was licensed by the magistrates of Hatton-garden, under the former act, with no hesitation, and with the single doubt whether it came within the provisions of the statute. No persons are eligible but members of universities or inns of court, and many of its members have been, and are, members likewise of the house of commons.

Lord Mayor.—In short, it is a school of oratory?

Petitioners.—Yes, my lord, private application was made to the law officers of the crown for exemption, but we were referred to the sessions, as a matter of course. Your worships will observe, that a license will not protect us from the consequences of its abuse.

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Our meetings will still be open to your visitation, the license revokable at discretion, and ourselves personally liable for any breach of order, morality, or propriety in our debate.

Alderman Smith.—I think such a license would be highly objectionable.

Lord Mayor.—I see no objection.

Alderman Smith.—I do. If a license be granted, what is the use of the act?

Lord Mayor.—The society has complied with its provisions, and satisfied its object, by furnishing notice of its place of meeting, the names of its members, and its rules and regulations. Before this application, we might be, and perhaps were, ignorant of its existence altogether; but now it is brought immediately under the eye and control of the magistracy, which is all that the act intended.

Alderman Smith.—But this will allow debates upon the politics of the day.

Lord Mayor.—And why not? To refuse a license to these gentlemen would be depriving them of a privilege enjoyed by every tavern meeting or public dinner. It cannot be that the legislature means to prevent all political discussion, but merely to place it under regulation.

Sir John Perring.—Undoubtedly, it never was intended to put down all political discussion. I think the society entitled to a license, and am ready to sign.

Alderman Smith.—I object most strongly; the purpose of the act is to put down all political debate whatever.

Sir William Domville concurred in this sentiment.

Lord Mayor.—Impossible! This is a very serious question, and we must act deliberately in the face of the country. I think it my duty as a magistrate to sign this license, and should be ashamed of myself if I refused it. I am ready to sign.

Alderman Smith.—I am not ashamed. I will never sign such a license. Will the gentlemen consent to strike out the word political?

Petitioners.—We cannot consent to that.

Alderman Smith.—Will you take a license on condition to furnish the magistrates beforehand with the questions for debate, subject to their approval? I have no objection to grant a license on those conditions.

Petitioners.—We cannot take a license on such terms. The society is open to your visitation and control; if the magistrates doubt our discretion, conduct, or principles, they may come in person, or send an inspector. We shall refuse a license so shackled.

Alderman Smith.—That is quite enough for me. Do you hear that?

Lord Mayor.—I think we have no right to impose such conditions, and see no occasion for them.

Alderman Smith.—The flippant answer of this gentleman satisfies me.

Petitioner.—Sir, I am sorry you so much mistake my meaning. We come as officers of the society, and have no authority to compromise its rules, or to bind it to such terms as you have offered. I repeat again, we are not authorized, and must refuse such a license.

Lord Mayor.—Certainly, you are not authorized. I conceive it
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my duty to grant your application, and will sign it immediately.

Sir John Perring concurred. Aldermen Domville and Smith strenuously opposed; but the petitioners expressed themselves satisfied, as the act required the signature of two magistrates only. Here, however, the clerk interposed, on the ground that the act of two would be the act of the sessions; and as there was an equality of voices, the license could not pass. This objection finally prevailed over the contrary interpretation in favour of the petitioners. Before retiring, however, the applicants addressed the bench as follows:

Petitioners.—My Lord, are we then to understand that the sessions refuse our license, yes or no?

Lord Mayor.—I am afraid so. Sir John Perring and myself are ready to sign it, but what can be done? We cannot get over this difficulty.

Petitioners.—We thank your lordship, and shall know what further course to adopt.

The license was accordingly declared to be refused.

19. The Gazette of the Two Sicilies gives the following description of a monument which has been discovered among the excavations at Pompeia:—The front of the edifice is ornamented with six columns, which uniting with six others, divided in two lateral portions, form a peristyle, fifty-two palms wide, and forty-three long. The columns are of a soft stone, coated with stucco, and are fluted. Their bases are attic, without any plinth. From the vestibule, to which there is an easy flight, composed of a small

number of stairs, there is an entrance, by a large door, into a hall, fifty feet long, and forty-six broad. On the wings is raised a double colonnade of six columns, each two palms and a quarter in diameter, similar to those in the vestibule. From several swelling shafts, M. Arditì conjectures that all the edifice had a superior order of columns, of a smaller diameter. On the floor of the hall are three little entrances, conducting to as many small chambers. To the left is a small staircase, by which there was probably an ascent to the higher part of the building. In the lateral part of the hall the pavement is Mosaic. In the centre there had been various geometrical figures in marble, of which only the traces on the ground remain. All the walls are ornamented with pictures, the backgrounds of which are painted with a very lively and brilliant red colour. The dilapidations of this superb monument seem to indicate that its erection was at a very distant period. In all parts the traces of ruins are to be found. The ground is covered with stones, and with the capitals of demolished columns. Orders have been given for its immediate restoration. The zeal and the knowledge of the Chevalier Arditì will re-establish, as soon as possible, this edifice, which is one of the most curious that have been discovered at Pompeia.

A dreadful occurrence took place at Wigton on Sunday the 20th, Anne Graham, the wife of W. Graham, blacksmith, murdered two of her children by strangulation, left another for dead, and afterwards cut her own throat!

The following particulars have reached us, from which it will clearly appear that the wretched woman laboured under strong mental derangement. On the preceding day she dressed herself, and took her children for a walk, a circumstance with her very unusual on such a day. She went with them to a small stream of water, and looking into it, remarked that "it was not deep enough, and they would come another time." On Sunday morning, she strongly persuaded her husband to go to church; and when she laid out his Sunday clothes, she gave him a black silk handkerchief, instead of a white one. He inquired the reason, and asked for a white one. His wife immediately said to him in a singular tone—"What, would you not wear it if we all lay dead?" Graham took no particular notice of this wildness, and went to church. As soon as he was gone, she called the children into the house and locked the door. After washing them, she gave the oldest (a boy about nine years of age) an infant to hold, which was sucking at the breast, and then took one of the other children into an adjoining room, put it to death by strangling it with her hands, and then laid it into a bed. She returned for another, which she strangled in the same manner. When she came for the third, the boy before-mentioned inquired what she was doing, and observed, he thought she was killing the children. She replied, that she would let him soon see what she was doing with them, and went into the room with the third, which she also strangled. The

boy being alarmed, laid the infant on the floor, and got into the blacksmith's shop by means of a door which communicates with the dwelling-house, where he concealed himself under the large bellows. His mother followed him into the shop, and searched, but could not find him. After she returned into the dwelling-house, the boy escaped from the shop by drawing the bolts which secured the great doors. He met his father as he was returning from church, and told him the dreadful tale; assistance was immediately procured, and on entering the house, the unhappy woman was found with her throat dreadfully cut, without any signs of life; the infant was lying on the floor unhurt; and the other three children were found in bed—two of them quite dead; the other showed symptoms of life, and by proper care has been much recovered, but still remains in a doubtful state. No cause but insanity can be assigned for these dreadful acts. Graham has always proved himself a kind and affectionate husband. His wife was naturally of a gloomy disposition; and, latterly, she had formed an idea that her children would come to poverty. The Coroner's jury returned a verdict of *Insanity*.

21. A shocking accident happened on Monday evening. A number of poor people were gathering cockles on Laven-Sands, when on a sudden a thick fog came, and the tide flowing at the time, drowned the whole; one report says 12 in number, men, women, and children.—*Chester paper*.

Since the publication of this paper,

paper, we never had to record a more heart-rending calamity than what occurred on Monday the 21st on Lavan Sands. A number of poor persons, consisting of two men, three women, and three children, went, as was their usual custom at this season, to collect cockles on the above sands; the day had been remarkably clear, but towards evening an uncommonly thick fog arose, of which they were admonished to beware before they set out, and it was observed very visibly collecting in the distant horizon; the consequence was, as may be anticipated, they could not find their way back, night was coming on, and the distance from any succour being nearly four miles, their cries could not be heard—after wandering in vain for several hours, they all perished on the return of the tide! The coroner's inquest sat on the bodies of these unfortunate sufferers, who were placed in Aberchurch; and certainly a more afflicting sight can hardly be conceived; husbands lamenting the loss of wife and children, and wives lamenting the loss of husbands and children! One woman and a little girl are not yet found. The party consisted of eight persons; those found are Ellen Roberts and her daughter, from the parish of Llanllechid, the daughter only arriving last week from Liverpool to see her parents, and has left an infant only three months old; two labouring men, one with a son, and the other with a daughter; the last, a little girl of only fourteen years old, was found kneeling, with her hands folded across her bosom, close to the prostrate body of her father!!

The two men had large families; one had seven children! They were discovered close together. The sea was so calm and the tide flowed so gently, that the men were found with their hats on!—(*North Wales Gazette.*)

A most disastrous case of insanity happened at the private madhouse of Mr. Warburton, on Bethnal-green, on Friday the 20th, which became the subject of an inquest before J. W. Unwin, Esq. one of the coroners for Middlesex, at two o'clock on Tuesday. The circumstances attending the fatal affair are as follows:—About half-past one o'clock on Friday last, Mr. Owen Anderson, (who had been placed in this establishment in the year 1815, and had remained there ever since) with several other patients, had just dined. One of the two keepers who attended upon them quitted the room for some domestic purpose; the knives and forks which had been used at dinner were placed in a knife-tray, on one of the forms. Joseph Deshayes, the unfortunate person who is deceased, happened to go to a closet near the fire-place in which coals were kept, and stooping down to fill the coal-scuttle, the unhappy gentleman, Mr. Anderson, seized a case-knife, and plunged it into the keeper's back. He rose up immediately, and received another desperate stab in the lower part of the belly. No persons were in the room at this time but the deceased, Mr. Anderson, and the other patients.

John Welch sworn.—Is a servant in the house. On Friday, about half-past one o'clock, was in the kitchen cutting up the dinner.

ner. The deceased came in and set himself down in a chair by the side of the dresser, near the fire, and looked extremely pale; said Mr. Anderson had stabbed him with a knife, and requested witness to go immediately into the room. He ran there immediately, and saw the other keeper, assisted by one of the patients, putting a strait waistcoat on Mr. Anderson; saw a knife, which the patients pointed out to be the instrument with which the deceased had been struck. Witness returned immediately to the kitchen, and found the deceased had been removed into the parlour. Witness assisted in putting him to bed; sat up with him the whole night. He complained of his pain, and said, "O, Anderson, you have murdered me!" "I am going to my last!" Deceased stated, that he was at the cupboard-door stooping, that Mr. Anderson had stabbed him with a knife first in the back, and when he got up stabbed him in the belly. Witness attended upon him till his death, which took place on Saturday evening about six o'clock: considered Anderson as an insane person.

Edward Bowdler confirmed part of the testimony of the last witness; was the person who had left the room as above-mentioned.

Evidence was then given by two medical gentlemen to prove Anderson's insanity.

Several of the jury having expressed a wish to put some questions to Mr. Anderson, he was brought into the inquest-room. He is a young man of interesting appearance, about twenty-three years of age; he said he could not recollect now why he so conducted

himself to the keeper. That he was more composed than he had been, and that he would not do so any more.

The jury returned their verdict, "That the deceased had died by the violent act of Owen Anderson; but that at the time of committing such act, the said Owen Anderson was not of sound mind, memory, and understanding, but lunatic and distracted."

26. *Murder and Robbery.*—The house in which this audacious act was committed is in Pendleton, a suburb, and two miles from the Exchange of Manchester, which adjoins the turnpike-road to Liverpool, and is surrounded by many houses, although none are particularly connected with it. It belongs to a Mr. Littlewood, a respectable grocer in Salford, who was duly attending to the avocations of the market-day, and was left in the care of an elderly woman (housekeeper) and servant girl. The bloody business must have been perpetrated before five o'clock, as a nurse-maid of a neighbouring family went at that hour to see Mr. L's girl, with whom she was intimate. The doors were locked, and many of the window-blinds down; in consequence of which the nurse-maid returned home, having first attempted to open the door, and cursorily look through the window of one of the rooms, in which she indistinctly saw the elderly woman in an arm-chair, and whom she supposed to be asleep. The curiosity of the nurse-maid induced her to return at seven o'clock, when she still found the doors locked, which alarmed her, from the singularity of the circumstance; and, on looking through

through the window again attentively, she perceived the old housekeeper apparently lifeless and much bruised. An alarm was immediately given, and the house entered by a ladder, when it appeared that the house was robbed, and the two hapless women inhumanly murdered. The instruments of destruction which it is supposed were used were a cleaver and a poker. The housekeeper, it is supposed, offered no resistance, and was dispatched whilst asleep in the chair; but the younger woman is conceived to have courageously resisted, as several of the blows inflicted were sufficient to have occasioned death. Six men have been already apprehended, four of whom there is strong reason for surmising will ultimately prove the perpetrators of the diabolical deeds of horror.—*Manchester Mercury*.

29. The grand jury of London returned true bills for high treason against Arthur Thistlewood, gent.; James Watson the elder, surgeon; James Watson the younger, surgeon; Thomas Preston, cordwainer; and James Hooper, labourer. The bill against John Keenes, tailor, was thrown out.

MAY.

8. *Ghent*.—There are now in circulation manuscript copies of a memorial presented to his Majesty by the Bishops of Ghent, Namur, Tournay, and the Vicar-general of Liege and of Malines. This memorial relates to the mode of instruction prescribed for the Universities by the regulations of the 25th of last November.

The bishops state first, that be-

ing bound by their duty to watch over the great interests of religion, they are obliged to prevent the introduction of a system of education, which might corrupt youth and violate the dogmas and the discipline of the Catholic Church. It is with this view that they remark several points of the regulations which have appeared to them susceptible of producing this result. It is laid down as a principle, that it is to the Catholic Church that the world is indebted for the establishment of universities, which have succeeded to the episcopal schools. The principal object of this institution was to propagate all the branches of human knowledge, and principally religion. Abbé Fleury says, that it was “to preserve the holy doctrine” that universities were founded. It is to preserve youth from the contagion of *philosophical errors* that religion has presided over all studies, under the intervention of the bishops, who alone have received the power of teaching, or causing others to teach, ecclesiastical science.

The Catholic Sovereigns, who were themselves interested in the maintenance of religion, themselves invoked the authority of the sovereign Pontiffs, to direct the high schools by wise regulations. Thus was erected “the celebrated University of Louvain, which has been to Belgium a nursery of men whose names will be ever illustrious.” Pope Martin V. in his bull erecting it, speaks of the duty which is imposed on it, of encouraging, as much as possible, sciences of every kind, by the means of which the science which has for its object the maintenance
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of the true faith and of divine worship is propagated more and more.

The interests of the state and of the church are now the same, and require the application of the same principles. The bishops assert, that in the present state of morals religion is now more necessary than ever. These great principles having appeared to them to be violated by the regulations of the 25th of November, they have laid before his Majesty the observations contained in this memorial, which may contain a doctrine too exclusive, and manifest fears exaggerated by zeal; but which has the merit of being written with a moderation not always found in writings of this nature.

Birmingham.—On the 15th a most destructive fire broke out in this town, at the extensive mills, called Water-street Mills, which are situate by the side of the Birmingham canal. In a few hours, so violent were the flames, and so extremely rapid in their extension, that this vast pile of buildings, which occupy a space of ground as large as the Haymarket in London, were entirely consumed. The value of the property is supposed not to be less than 200,000*l*.

19. At an adjourned London Session, the Academical Society again applied for a licence authorising them to discuss philosophical, literary, historical, and political subjects, in their rooms in Chancery-Lane, which, after some discussion, was unanimously granted.

20. The investigation of the murder committed at Pendleton terminated on Wednesday last, at the Hare and Hounds, Pendleton. More than 40 witnesses were ex-

amined: after which the jury unanimously pronounced a verdict of wilful murder against all the four men, viz. James Ashcroft the elder, James Ashcroft the younger, David Ashcroft, and William Holden. They were then severally brought up before the Court, and being asked by the coroner if they had any thing to say, and admonished by him to be cautious in what they advanced, they merely asserted their innocence in general terms, and were then committed to Lancaster Castle, to take their trials at the next assizes.

At the Norwich sessions held last month, Mr. Steward Alderson addressed the grand jury, and directed them “to make a full, diligent, and impartial inquiry into the matter, and to present houses of seditious resort, if they found any existed;” observing, that none had come to his knowledge as a resident magistrate. The Grand jury instituted the inquiry, and made this presentment thereon:—We copy it verbatim from the Norwich paper.

“We, the Grand Jury, summoned to inquire for our Sovereign Lord the King, have, in consequence of the direction of the Steward, minutely examined the constables of the various wards, who have appeared before us, whether they knew of any public or private house in which meetings had been held of a secret nature, in which sedition was encouraged, or blasphemy or irreligion tolerated; and they have all reported that none such had been held to the best of their knowledge. We are also ourselves of opinion that no such societies exist in this city.”

(Signed by the Grand Jury.)

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Upon this presentment being made, the Steward discharged the Grand Jury, observing, that after so respectable and attentive an investigation, he thought this city stood acquitted of the suspicions that had been entertained respecting seditious meetings.

23. This afternoon, about ten minutes before three o'clock, a hackney-coach stopped in Pall-mall, opposite the sentinel-box on the west side of the east gate of Carlton-house court-yard. The coachman alighted from his box, and was directed by the gentleman to knock at the gate, and at the same time he gave him a card, on which was written, in pencil, Capt. de Achen: the porter answered the knock, and the coachman gave him the card, saying, the gentleman in the coach was a foreigner, and he did not understand what he said or what he wanted; the porter replied he should not understand him any better. A German, in the Regent's establishment, passing at the time, the porter sent him to the coach-door, when the stranger asked for some gentleman of the royal establishment, who, he was informed, was not in Carlton-house; he was then observed by the German to be moving his lips; but if he was talking, he could not hear what he said; at the same time he observed him stooping on the right side; and as he was in the act of rising, the report of a pistol was heard, and a smoke issued from the coach. The general opinion of those within sight of the transaction was, that the German at the coach-door was shot, as he stood motionless for the instant, from alarm at the sudden explo-

sion; it was, however, immediately ascertained that the gentleman in the coach had shot himself in the side, and had fallen back in the coach.

Mr. Phillips, jun. the son of Mr. Phillips the surgeon, who resides within a few yards of the spot, happened to be an observer of the transaction, and instantly ran to feel the gentleman's pulse, when he pronounced him to be dead: he was, however, taken into Mr. Phillips's house, in which Lord Robert Seymour, who happened to be passing at the time, very humanely assisted. His lordship also found in the coach the instrument of his death, which was a large Spanish horse pistol. An attempt was made by Mr. Phillips to bleed him, but in vain. The body was afterwards conveyed on some boards to the Goat public-house in Pall-mall. He was a remarkably fine young man, about 30 years of age, upwards of six feet high; he was dressed in a military blue great coat, black silk handkerchief round his neck, light blue pantaloons. He had formerly belonged to the German legion, and he proves to be of the name written on the card, Captain de Achen. He distinguished himself in the battle of Waterloo. He has been some time in this country, and has had a great desire to be employed in the British army. On Thursday he accompanied Major Poten to Epsom Races. Yesterday, about one o'clock, he went to the Duke of Cumberland's residence in St. James's Palace, to visit Major Poten, the major being aide-de-camp to the duke; he was there about an hour: he was known to the duke. The account

count the hackney-coachman gave of him was, he hired him in Bridge-street, Westminster, near the house No. 2, but whether he came out of that house or not he could not tell. No difference was observed as to his usual mode of conducting himself, up to two o'clock yesterday, nor was the cause of the rash act ascertained.

24. The first survey was made this morning, by means of the diving bell, of the wreck of the Royal George, which sunk at Spithead about 35 years since. She lies nearly east and west, with her head to the westward, and with a trifling inclination on her larboard bilge. The whole of her decks have fallen in, and the starboard broadside upon them; there is, in fact, no appearance whatever of her original formation, her remains appearing as a pile of ruinous timber-work. The surface of her timbers is decayed, but the heart of them is sound. Not the least vestige of her guns, anchors, spars, or masts, was discovered, and the whole of her head and rail-work has gone to pieces; the guns must have fallen into the hull, among the wreck. There is no bank or great accumulation of mud around her; the hollows in her hull contain a quantity of fine black muscose mud, the natural sediment of the tides. It would not be difficult either to saw her in pieces or blow her up; but she cannot be weighed in a body, from her dilapidated unconnected state. The bell, on being let down, touched on her larboard broadside, passed round her bows, and was brought up from her starboard broadside.

From the Ceylon Gazette.—It is

with much concern we communicate to the public a very shocking event which happened on the evening of the 11th, near Colombo:—

A party of seven young gentlemen had been walking among the trees, near the sea, about two miles south of the fort; between five and six o'clock they sat down on the shore, without any previous intention of bathing, when Mr. May, of the ordnance civil department, went into the water, and was followed by several others. Mr. May was an excellent swimmer, and plunging into the nearest surf, he did not rise till he was some way beyond it. After playing about a short time, he struck out into deeper water, when Lieutenant Gray, who was within the surf, and aware of the danger from sharks, called out to him not to go any farther. At that moment the swell of the surf hid him from Mr. Gray; but some of the party, who were standing higher on the shore, saw him on a sudden struggle and sink. He rose again directly, and cried out, "A shark, a shark; no joke, no joke, upon my honour, I am bit!" But he did not seem to be much hurt, for he swam with great strength towards the shore. Lieutenant Gray rushed forward to his assistance, and just as they were near meeting, the shark seized him again, but he was not pulled under water, and only cried out—"I am bit, I am bit." Mr. Gray then got hold of him, and at that moment he saw the shark make a third attack. They were now very near the shore, and Mr. Gray, with the assistance of another young man, succeeded in

in getting him on dry land. He had sunk upon his knees as they were supporting him, and was endeavouring to speak, but could only utter convulsive inarticulate sounds. They thought he was fainting, and got him some water, which they pressed him to drink; he raised his head, opened his lips, and attempted to swallow, but instantly sunk down again, and expired without a groan. The whole of the flesh, with all the blood-vessels, was torn away from the back of his left thigh, for a considerable space above the knee. The laceration was so dreadful, that Mr. Martin, the surgeon, who hastened to see him on hearing of the accident, declared it would have been impossible to save him had he been upon the spot. The great effusion of blood must have produced immediate death. He did not, in fact, survive above two minutes. It is probable the fatal wound was given in the second or third attack, when Lieut. Gray saw the ravenous monster in the act of seizing his unhappy victim. The shark appeared to be rather small, with a large head; but the water was so discoloured with blood, that it could not be distinctly seen.

28. The Society of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, have just received an unexpected and magnificent present of 20,000*l.* from an unknown benefactor. The Master and Fellows lately received letters requesting their attendance in London to receive the same. At the time and place appointed, they met the agent of the donor, who, after regaling them with a handsome dinner, transferred the above sum for the use of the society for

ever, saying, it came from a gentleman aged 94, but whose name would not be known till after his decease. The reason assigned for the gift is the legacy duty being thus avoided. The College, it is said, intend to apply the interest of the money towards founding some new scholarships, and augmenting the income of some of their fellowships.

30. The Literary and Debating Society of Cambridge, calling themselves the Union, have printed a list of their laws, regulations, subjects discussed during the two last years, and the names of their Members. The latter amount to above 350 (including Honorary Members), among whom are the Earls of Denbigh and Brecknock; Viscounts Kilworth, Normanby, and Weymouth; Honourables Shore, Stuart, Melville, Bridgman, Maitland, Yelverton, &c. &c.; and several Baronets; and comprising a great portion of the talent of the junior part of the University; seventy-seven who have taken their Bachelor's Degree, and forty-nine who are Masters of Arts. After having, in the most temperate and respectful language, expressed their deference to the Constituted Authorities of the University, they proceed to state the circumstances of their suppression by the present Vice-Chancellor, after having been permitted to hold their meetings, on precisely the same principles, but with a different title, since the year 1806.

In a remonstrance which they presented to the Vice-Chancellor, they informed him, that, "by their regulations, they only assembled to debate one evening in the week; that the discussion, on an average, did

did not exceed two hours in duration; that their meetings were only held during one half of each term, when they were hardly ever attended by one half of the resident members; consequently each individual, on an average, did not bestow on the society more than ten hours in the year, and *could not* possibly give more than forty; that, so far from interfering with the studies of the place, their list of members exhibits the names of three university scholars, seven Chancellor's medallists, twelve Browne's medallists, and several who had attained the highest mathematical honours. They profess themselves ready to exclude from their debates, if they can be tolerated on no other terms, political, as they always have done theological subjects; and to submit to any regulation which may not be utterly incompatible with their wish to practise themselves in speaking—a study which they humbly conceive not to be utterly useless."

It was farther submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, "that the existence of a large speaking society, forming a weekly point of reunion to its members, had materially tended to diminish the attendance on clubs and meetings, whose conduct was likely to be less orderly, as their objects were less intellectual than those of the Union."

They most earnestly requested, that their society might not be put down precisely at this period, when the universal suppression of societies bearing accidentally the same name, might lead those unacquainted with the University to suppose that their club has been

put down from political motives, and that it has been guilty of seditious meetings or treasonable language.

The Vice-Chancellor replied—"That he did not think it necessary, or perhaps proper, to return any answer to this statement."

JUNE.

From Kamtschatka, May 25, O. S.
—As in the whole east and north-east part of Siberia, it has happened also in Kamtschatka, that in the course of last winter an incredible number of bears have left the woods, frequently entered the houses of the Kamtschadales, in many places have attacked and devoured the inhabitants; nay, traces have been found of their having killed and devoured each other. At the end of the winter many bears were found who had perished with hunger. In several settlements they have killed from 2 to 300 bears. The oldest Kamtschadales do not remember ever to have seen the bears so savage and bloodthirsty. The cause of this savageness and of their hunger is, that for these two years past there has been an entire want of fish in the Kamtschatka sea; and fish, as is well known, are the chief food of the bears, which, being usually so abundant in those waters, they easily contrive to catch.

3. About five o'clock in the afternoon, a dreadful occurrence took place in Portman-square. The Lady of Dr. Charles Dalston Nevinson, after taking her usual walk in the enclosure of the square, had just closed the gate, and was crossing the footway upon her return

return home, when a horse drawing a gig took fright, and running with great fury, brought the shaft of the vehicle in contact with her head, and literally dashed it to pieces. The blood flowed profusely, and she died in a few minutes after. The lady was the mother of three children. She was about thirty-three years of age, and extremely interesting. Her remains were conveyed to her residence, and the scene of affliction which they caused there to a husband and to children who were most fondly attached to her, cannot be described.

4. *Philadelphia*.—On Saturday morning last, about seven o'clock, two miles above Point Coussee, the boiler of the steam-boat *Constitution* burst, and destroyed all the most respectable passengers, amounting to eleven: although on the morning of the same day, at four o'clock, but five of those unfortunate gentlemen had actually expired, there could not exist a hope that any one of the eleven could survive, being completely scalded and skinned from head to foot, and the nerves contracted, and the extremities destroyed.

22. *The Barbary Pirates*.—*Frankfort*.—On the 16th instant, being the 35th meeting of the Diet, was presented the following representation respecting the piracies of the Barbary corsairs:—

The free cities of Lubeck, Frankfort, Bremen, and Hamburg:—The Minister of the said free cities has received orders from the Senates of the Hanse Towns to submit the following Memorial to the Diet:—

The Senates of the Hans Towns of Lubeck, Bremen, and Ham-

burgh, feel themselves bound to call the attention of the Diet to an object which is of the greatest importance, not only directly to these cities as well as to all other German maritime states, but also to the whole German federation. It is already known, from the accounts in public papers, that piracy is carried on in an unheard of manner by Tunisian corsairs in the North sea and even in the Channel. It also appears from several official reports, transmitted by the *Chargés d'Affaires* and Consul of the Hans Towns at Madrid and Lisbon, that, according to formal communications made to them by the Minister of the King of the Netherlands at the former, and by the French Consul-General at the latter Court, several armed Barbary corsairs, among which are in particular two Tunisians, had sailed for the Atlantic, in order to cruise against the ships of the Hans Towns and some other German States, but avowedly against Prussian ships; and have expressly declared this design under the pretence that they are in a state of war with these States.

On the 16th of last month the Hamburg ship *Ocean*, with a cargo of great value, and the *Christiana*, from Lubeck, and still more recently a Hamburg and an Oldenburgh ship, both named *Catharina*, were taken by these pirates. Fortunately, British ships of war fell in with the robbers, and carried both them and the vessels they had captured into English ports, whence the latter were permitted to prosecute their respective voyages; meanwhile the captain of the ship *Ocean*, and five of his crew who had been removed on board another

another pirate, remain in the hands of the Tunisians, and, so far as is known, the Atlantic and the North sea are still rendered insecure by the ravages of Tunisian corsairs. It is, however, with gratitude to be acknowledged, that England has by her act, in this instance, declared, that she will not permit such offences to be committed on the seas which wash her coasts; and it is to be hoped that the other maritime Powers of Europe (to whom the Senate of Hamburgh has already, through their resident Ministers at Hamburgh, addressed itself) will concur in adopting active measures for the restoration of the security of navigation which is so important to all Europe: but the Senates of the Hans Towns do, notwithstanding, not only consider it proper, but regard it as their duty most urgently to claim from the high German Diet, and all the members thereof, their powerful co-operation towards the total abolition of depredations which are calculated to interrupt all commerce by sea.

The existence of the piracies of the Barbary Powers, even within the limits to which their depredations have hitherto been confined, is doubtless, a public injury to all Europe; and the compulsory exclusion thereby effected from the Mediterranean, of the ships of those German States which are unable to procure protection to their flags, either by a naval force, or by making considerable pecuniary sacrifices, was previously not only to themselves, but to those interested in the trade which they carry on, an evil of no small magnitude, and which was besides increased by the insecurity of a

part of the Atlantic. The abolition of the piracy of the Barbary Powers, even within those limits, had become the anxious wish of all Europe, and was an object to which the attention of the Powers assembled in Congress at Vienna was directed. But how trifling is this partial evil when compared with the incalculably mischievous consequences which may ensue, if these African pirates are permitted without interruption to sail from their infected coasts, and to spread among distant countries the diseases which they carry along with them? So long as the danger was confined to the Mediterranean sea, its site was at least well known, and precautionary measures were adopted against it; and though these measures of safety, together with diminished competition, necessarily raised the price of the productions of that part of the world, yet commerce, though somewhat impeded, was never totally at a stand. A complete stagnation of German navigation and German trade must however take place if the Barbary pirates are not rigorously restrained from extending themselves to other seas. Should they be suffered to cruise in the Atlantic, the North-sea, and the Baltic, if they are not prevented from attacking merchants, who during the time of peace rely with confidence on the law of nations, there must be an end to German navigation and commerce. It will also be henceforth useless to send the produce and manufactures of Germany down the rivers which communicate with the North-sea and the Baltic, or even to convey them by land to the different sea-ports, in order that they

they may be transported in vessels to foreign countries. A similar fate will await those articles destined to be imported into Germany. The merchant protects himself by insurance against the ordinary dangers to which vessels are usually exposed at sea. Even during maritime war, which is so injurious to commerce and navigation, the same protection is to a certain degree obtained by higher premiums, although the payment of these premiums is a heavy tax both on the manufacturer and the consumer; but they cannot possibly ensure their property against the threatened attacks of the Barbary pirates.

These pirates, who are totally ignorant of the law of nations, and who cruise for the express purpose of plunder, first announced their declaration of war by their attacks. It must not be supposed that these vessels are the property of private individuals; they are fitted out in execution of their laws. These plunderers limit themselves to no time or forms; they unexpectedly attack defenceless merchants, and carry off not only property but even men, German fellow-citizens, whose cries are re-echoed from their native coasts, and whom these African pirates plunge into the gloomy dungeons of slavery. Dangers of such a nature could never be anticipated, and consequently no precautions have been adopted against them. Occurrences of this nature have given rise to feelings of insecurity, which have interrupted navigation and commerce; for no one knows how long may be the continuation of these atrocities, which have for the meanwhile occasioned a total stagnation

of trade. These pirates will become more audacious by being allowed to escape unpunished, and to succeed in their desultory enterprises. It is even probable, that during their cruises they may land on exposed and defenceless parts of the German coast, and there carry on their trade of plundering, and kidnapping, and spread distress and devastation on every side. In addition to all the disasters under which Germany has groaned for so long a period, may they not communicate to us the infection of their indigenous plague, the most dreadful of all earthly calamities? What has already been stated will doubtless sufficiently account for the Senates of the Hans-Towns having been induced to represent to the Diet, that not merely those towns, but likewise every maritime and commercial State, and indeed the whole German nation, are interested in putting a stop to the depredations of the Barbary pirates. The Senates have reason to hope, that the revolting occurrences which have called forth this representation will excite the utmost indignation among the high and illustrious members of the German Confederation; and that not only each individual member will exert himself to root out this evil, but that the High Confederation, as a collective and European Power, will adopt every possible measure to put an end to these piracies, which threaten the honour of the German flag and the welfare of the German nation.

Even though the German Confederation possess, as a federative body, no naval force, it is neither deficient in the power or means necessary for effectually watching
over

over the safety of German navigation; and the Hans Towns may justly entertain a hope, that a proposal for the earnest consideration of this important business will meet the approbation of the Diet. On the questions being put by the President, all voices were unanimous in declaring, that their respective High Courts and constituents should be informed of these circumstances, that they might adopt the most effectual means for the protection of German commerce. The majority were of opinion that a commission, consisting of five members, should be chosen to prepare suitable propositions whereon to frame the report.

The Ambassador of the King of the Netherlands delivered the following to the Protocol:—

That we should on this occasion consult all our Courts, and in particular the Great Courts, is beyond all doubt. The opinions of individuals are of little importance; the question is, what ought to be done, and what it is possible to do? I am not invested with unlimited powers on the part of the whole united Netherlands; but I will, nevertheless, in this, and on all occasions, agree with the majority when they vote for a commission; though I never or very seldom connect with the institution of such a body the idea of more prompt counsel, but only the expectation of farther elucidation and greater industry. I am therefore inclined, as in every case which occurs here, to develop all the grounds for and against the question, in order that the Courts may form their views on these investigations. In what way else can they hear public opinion? Or in what better man-

ner can that opinion be directed? The very first article of the Act of Confederation speaks of the inviolability of the individual German States, not of territories or dominions. Since then the word *State* is not now regarded as formed merely of five alphabetic characters, but as representing honour, life, liberty, property, and the security of individuals, their activity, and their industry, the question of protection is assuredly something imperative: but the different branches of the question as to the practicability of the protection, and its extent, are worthy of serious investigation. On the conclusion of the Bourbon-Family-Compact, was it ever asked whether it included the repression of all offences and acts of injustice by sea and land? Whether it related equally to merchantmen and ships of war? The retroaction and extension of the present evils may not be confined to the propagation of disease only, but may occasion bankruptcies and loss of confidence in consequence of the execution of mercantile orders being impeded, which would not fail to produce the suspension of several branches of manufactures in the interior.

The Diet then proceeded to the election of the commission, and the choice fell upon Count von Goltz, Baron von Eyben, Baron von Gagern, Herr von Berg, and the Syndic Danz.

Resolution—That the Envoys, Count von Goltz, Baron von Eyben, Baron von Gagern, Herr von Berg, and the Syndic Danz, be requested to submit a joint opinion on the most efficient precautions for securing the German navigation against the piracies of the Barbary corsairs,

corsairs, with a view to the report to be made to the Courts and constituents of the members of the Diet.

17. *Court of King's Bench.—The King. v. Preston, Thistlewood, and Hooper, for High Treason.—*

At half past 12 the Attorney and Solicitor-General entered the Court.

The three prisoners above-named were soon afterwards introduced by the warders of the Tower.

They were then informed by the officer, in the usual form, that they must challenge the jury-men as they came to the book to be sworn, and a jury was immediately called over and placed in the box.

The prisoners, holding up their hands, were arraigned for high-treason by the master of the Crown Office, and the jury was charged with their trial. Proclamation was likewise made, after which

The Attorney-General, addressing their lordships, said, I rise for the purpose of informing the Court that it is not my intention to call any evidence in support of the charges against the prisoners at the bar.

Lord Ellenborough. — Gentlemen of the Jury, as no evidence is brought forward against the prisoners, it will be your duty to find them not guilty, that they may be discharged.

The prisoners again held up their hands, and Mr. Barlow put the question separately to the Jury, whether they found the defendants guilty or not guilty, and whether they had fled for it,

The answer was, that they were not guilty, and that they had not fled for it.

Lord Ellenborough. — Mr. Attorney General, as there is no further charge against the prisoners, I shall order that they be discharged.

Thistlewood, Hooper, and Preston, were discharged accordingly, and retired from the Court by a private way through the jury box.

A foreigner, attended by a person whom he styled his interpreter, called at Messrs. Rundell and Bridge's, Ludgate-hill, as he stated, to look out an assortment of valuable diamonds, and other articles, in order to make a considerable purchase for a foreign market. He gave it to be understood, that it would not be convenient to pay for them till the following week; but, to save trouble when he came for them, he wished to have the articles previously selected and agreed for. For the satisfaction of both parties the interpreter signified that Mr. Simon Blaum, the Geneva merchant, as he styled him, was desirous that the valuables, as they were bargained for, should be put into a paper box which he had brought for that purpose, and then sealed up with his seal, and that of the house. The box was proposed, of course, to be deposited with Messrs. Rundell and Bridge. Much time was consumed in selecting the articles, and in making out the bill of parcels, which presented altogether a sum of no less amount than 24,000*l.* Every thing being arranged, the foreigner and his interpreter took leave, with the assurance that they

they would be punctual at the time appointed, with cash or unexceptionable bills. Two days over and above the time fixed for the return of the foreigners having elapsed, it was thought necessary to break the seals, in order to restore the articles to their former places, when, to the utter astonishment of the jewellers, they found the box to contain a few English pence. It was now supposed that the fraud must have been committed by a quick change of the boxes, after the valuables had been deposited in one of them. On enquiry it was found that the foreign sharper had lodged a few nights at the Huntley Coffee-house, Leicester Square; and, according to the notice at the Alien-Office, he was to be found at No. 6, Duke's-Place, Houndsditch. In contemplation of the robbery, the villain had previously prepared himself with a passport for France.

Further Account.—It has been stated that part of the jewels plundered from the above house have been traced and recovered, near Bride-Lane, Fleet-Street. We are assured from undoubted authority, that they have neither been traced nor recovered. Many persons have asked how the thief could carry about his person a box large enough to contain 20,000*l.* worth of jewels and pearls, without its being discovered; but their astonishment will in one respect cease when they are informed, that it was only 5 inches long, 3 wide, and about 2 inches thick. The property the thief looked out was to the value of 24,000*l.* but he only had put into the box to the

value of between 20 and 21,000*l.* the rest, which consisted entirely of pearls of a smaller size, were put into a paper parcel, and which he did not attempt to remove. One diamond necklace which was carried off was alone valued at 10,280*l.* and a pearl necklace, of only 37 pearls, was worth 3,000 guineas. The negotiation between the thieves and this respectable firm was conducted on behalf of the latter by Mr. Rundell, jun. who set out for Paris on Thursday last. The wife of the interpreter is in custody in this country.

19. The Rev. David Evans, of Llanvigan, Breconshire, with his eldest daughter, Miss Caroline Evans, a fine young lady about 20 years of age, were crossing the river Usk, at Skethrog-ford, on their way to dine with Sir Edward Hamilton, when the horse on which they rode, getting his feet entangled in the concealed root of a tree, by which the animal was thrown down, precipitated them into a deep part of the river, and Miss Evans sunk to rise no more. Her father saved himself with great difficulty by clinging to the horse's tail, the animal dragging him ashore. The young lady, by the exertions of a shepherd in the employ of Mr. Ball, was got out shortly afterwards, but not till the vital spark was extinct. Immediately after the body was brought on shore, the father being on the opposite side of the river, expressed the utmost anxiety to cross, and the poor shepherd kindly stripped, and endeavoured to cross the stream again, for the purpose of bringing him over, when

when on reaching the spot where he had just before taken up the dead body of Miss Evans, melancholy to relate, the poor fellow sunk and also perished, leaving a wife and child to lament his loss.

20. *Extract of a Letter from William Porter, Esq. Consul of the United States at Palermo.*—You will probably have read in the newspapers, before this reaches you, an account of the piracy and diabolical murders committed by six abandoned wretches about six weeks ago, on the north of this island. If, however, you should not have seen any statement of this cold-blooded business, the following may serve.

The miscreants armed themselves at Messina with muskets, sabres, and long knives, and proceeded to a place three or four miles distant from that city, where they stole a small row-boat, and embarked themselves, taking a direction towards Melazzo, (thirty-five miles on the coast west of Messina), near which place, in the afternoon, they took a station for the purpose of seizing upon a small vessel they knew to be ready to sail from Messina for this place, and on board of which they likewise knew of several passengers on whom they supposed money might be found.

Soon after the approach of this vessel, these wretches, apparently as fishermen, rowed towards her, and at about half past 7 o'clock, being within reach of musket-shot, a volley was fired into her. Shortly after they boarded her, and in a few minutes murdered and mutilated every person on board. Of the murdered were 12 men, one woman, and one child ;

and of the mutilated and left for dead were three men and two women. One of the 12 men, the woman, and the child, were of one family. To the woman two alternatives were offered, one of which was instant death, which she preferred. They then searched for money and other things ; and actually, with all this carnage before their eyes, cooked victuals, and partook of a supper, and remained on board the vessel until the next morning.

In a few days afterwards, these same wretches took another small vessel, only a few miles distant from this harbour, bound to one of the Lipari islands, and after murdering three men, drove the remaining six under deck, nailed down the hatches, and bored holes for the purpose of sinking her ; fortunately, however, a boy, who in the confusion had covered himself with one of the sails, and was not discovered by the villains, was able, with the assistance of those below, to uncover the hatchway, and the vessel was kept above water until assistance was rendered by some fishermen.

The day after this second butchery, the villains landed at one of the king's tunny-fish establishments, about ten miles from this city, and retreated to the mountains. It was impossible, however, that such monsters should long escape being apprehended. The orders of his Royal Highness the Hereditary Prince were prompt on the occasion, and the measures immediately taken did away the possibility of their escaping from the island. In a few days after, four of them were apprehended in this city ; one has since been

found in Messina, and the other in a mountain near Catania.

The whole six were this morning exposed to the view of the inhabitants of Palermo. They have confessed their crimes, and have nothing now to wait for but the justice of this world, and the world to come."

21. *Palermo*.—A frightful event, which makes all sensitive minds tremble with horror, has been for some days the object of public commiseration. A felucca, belonging to Petro la Camera, having several passengers on board, had set out from Melazzo for this city. Scarcely had it left the harbour, when it was assailed by a bark carrying six armed pirates, who boarded the felucca, massacred the master and part of the sailors, and threw their bodies overboard. In the mean time, the other sailors had thrown themselves into the sea, in the hopes of escaping from these robbers. Freed thus from the crew, the pirates occupied themselves with the passengers, of whom they spared none; all received severe wounds. M. Issidore Annett, a merchant, was slain, and his body flung into the sea. Several others, including many females, died of their wounds. The pirates then cut with their sabres the sails and other objects necessary for navigation, that the felucca should necessarily be sunk. They plundered the passengers of all their effects and money, which amounted to the sum of about 5,000 ounces, which, by means of their little bark, they put on shore; and then, in the midst of the terrific spectacle, surrounded by the dead and dying, they made a repast, in which they devoured the

provisions that were on board the felucca. After this feast they left the felucca, which they abandoned to itself. The same day she foundered on the coast of Piraino. Out of 21 persons who had embarked, only eight arrived here in spite of their wounds. Of these, two have since died, and it is feared that the others will not long survive.

It appears that the same assassins who committed this horrible violence on the felucca of Pietro la Camera, had perpetrated a second outrage not less atrocious. The captain, Don Bran, a Neapolitan, in a little felucca, named *La Generosa*, having eight sailors on board, sailed from Castellamare for Lipari, and thence to Torrenauzza. After having effected the first part of this voyage, he had hardly sailed from Lipari, in the night of the 13th inst. when he was assailed by several armed men on board a row-boat. After having fired several musket-shots, the assassins boarded the felucca, murdered with sabres the captain and two sailors, and seized on all the property, and 1,000 ducats which the unfortunate captain had brought from a sale at Lipari. These robbers remained all night on board the felucca. On the following day they removed from the coast, carrying with them several unfortunate passengers, whom they had not massacred, and whom they destined to frightful torments. Fortunately the master, Mario Savona, excited by the cries of these unfortunates, was enabled to come to their assistance. He seized on the pirates, who are now actually in the hands of justice.

24. *Fire at Newfoundland, St. John's, N. B.*—On Wednesday the 18th,

18th, between 11 and 12 a m. a most destructive fire broke out at Carbonear, on the premises occupied by a person named Barry: the wind blew a heavy gale from the westward, which scattered the flaming fragments like a shower over the town. The methodist chapel (nearly half a mile from the spot where it commenced) was in a few moments totally consumed, from some of the burning matter alighting amongst shavings in the church-yard. The parsonage-house providentially escaped. From the chapel the fire was carried half a mile further, and destroyed a house inhabited by Thomas Clark, at Crocker's-cove. In the mean time 15 houses in town were totally destroyed. We have not heard of any lives being lost.

General Synod of Ulster.—At a meeting of this Presbyterian Assembly, held on Friday, June 27th, the Rev. Mr. Carlyle moved for the reading of the report of a deputation to Lord Castlereagh, respecting the education of the Protestant Presbyterian students for the church. Lord Castlereagh had asked whether this was a matter of discipline, which it certainly was, as the education included not merely the classic languages, or even theology, but moral education also. He observed, that at Cookstown, an individual, styling himself Lord Castlereagh, stated, by verbal messages, that “Government might regard their electing a professor to teach their students in theology as an act of hostility to them, and they were therefore required to desist.” “Who, or what was this Lord Castlereagh, that he should send

such a message to the Synod of Ulster! Was he an elder? Had he his credentials with him? What right had he to obtrude himself officially on their deliberations?” The Rev. Mr. C. concluded by proposing a declaratory act, that they considered the education of students as a matter of ecclesiastical discipline, in which they are determined to admit of no interference whatever. Allusions in the debate are made to a letter of Mr. Peel's, and to some other interference with the academical institution at Belfast. After long discussion, in which many of the clergy spoke, the motion was carried by a great majority; and the Synod, immediately after, elected the Rev. Mr. Hay to the vacant Professorship of Divinity.

27. A genteel young man of the name of Whitehead was drowned in the New River, a short distance from Islington. He had ventured with a companion to swim under what is called the Dark Arch, when about midway he was heard suddenly to cry out and make a struggle in the water. His companion, not being an expert swimmer, became alarmed, and made the best of his way back to the shore, and called out for help. Some people, who were haymaking near the spot, hastened to the assistance of Mr. Whitehead, and waited at the opposite end of the arch to that at which he entered, in the hope of his making his appearance, instead of which they observed the body of a man floating on the water, with all his clothes on. On dragging it on shore, they found that the person must have been some days in the water. They

They looked in vain for Mr. Whitehead, who had sunk to rise no more. His body, on being dragged for, was found about three hours afterwards. The deceased was considered an expert swimmer, and has been known to swim nearly a mile at a time. His being drowned is supposed to be owing to his having come suddenly in contact with the dead body already mentioned, the sight of which had so terrified him as to deprive him of his faculties.

Richmond Steam Yacht.—On the 28th, about half-past six o'clock, the steam boiler of the above packet burst at the top, and injured three persons in a dangerous manner. The yacht was injured on Saturday week in a slight degree, and had been repaired to render it fit to perform its passage. It fortunately had no persons on board at the time the event occurred, except the persons who navigate and conduct it. The shock was very great, but the injury done to the vessel was very slight. The top of the engine boiler was blown off by the explosion. The yacht had been prepared to sail on Monday. The conductors had been rowing it up the river; and when it had got about 100 yards above Westminster-bridge, the accident unfortunately took place. Mr. Arnold, the conductor of the yacht, was near the boiler when it burst, and was injured in a shocking manner. Two labourers belonging to the yacht were injured in a less degree. They were all conveyed on shore by a waterman, who was near when the accident happened, and taken to St. Thomas's hospital, in the Borough.

JULY.

1. The following particulars respecting the fire, on the 1st instant, at Uffington-house, the seat of Earl Lindsey, near Stamford, are copied from the *Stamford Mercury*:—

The Marchioness of Downshire, with her daughters, the Ladies Hill, had arrived on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Lindsey, on Monday night: being fatigued with travelling, the marchioness retired early, and the whole of the family at the Hall were in bed by half-past twelve o'clock. At about two in the morning, the Earl of Lindsey being indisposed, his countess got up to administer medicine to him; and having occasion to pass into the next room, her ladyship was alarmed by the smell of fire. She called up the housekeeper, Mrs. Vaughan, who, as soon as possible, descended into the kitchen, and there discovered that a large table standing in the middle of the apartment was on fire. The flames had got great hold of the solid table, and several of the drawers were partly burnt, and their contents consumed. With much resolution Mrs. Vaughan immediately procured water, and in a short time succeeded with assistance, in extinguishing the fire. All danger, it was hoped, was then over; but on looking up, Mrs. Vaughan perceived through a window which commands the kitchen from the housekeeper's room, that the latter apartment was in a blaze; and, on entering it, the window-curtains were found to be on fire; and it was also discovered, that a large closet, in which a quantity of

of table and bed-linen, and some valuable china, were deposited, was greatly damaged; some of the shelves were quite burnt through, and the linen was consumed: the china also was made so hot, that some of the persons whom the ringing of the bells in the village, and the alarm of fire, had brought to the Hall, broke many costly plates, and other articles, by dropping them in endeavouring to remove them. The fire, thus perceived, was soon subdued, but the cause of it, and the extraordinary circumstance of its breaking out in two distinct apartments—and that in a closet and the drawers of a detached table—remains a mystery which it is painful to reflect upon. It is believed that, had not the sudden and providential illness of the noble earl occasioned a timely alarm, the fire would in half an hour afterwards have got to such a height as that all the family must have perished in the flames. Under the circumstance of its wonderful discovery, the damage done, we understand, does not exceed 4 or 500*l.*, principally in linen and china. Lavender left Uffington on Tuesday last; and we are sorry to say that nothing is known to have been at present discovered tending to convict the perpetrators of a fire which, there is every reason to believe, has been wilfully occasioned.

4. *Total Destruction by Fire of the Regent Margate Steam Packet.*—On Wednesday morning last this vessel, commanded by Capt. Harvey, left London for Margate, with between 40 and 50 passengers on board; and it appears, from accounts received in town yesterday,

that when off Whitstable, which is 18 miles from the port of destination, she was discovered to be on fire; at this time she was also three miles from the main land. As a vessel of this description never carries a boat larger than sufficient to hold her own crew, which seldom exceeds a dozen persons, the consternation of between 40 and 50 passengers may be better conceived than described. The fire was discovered to proceed from the furnaces used for the boilers of the steam-engines, and to gain rapidly on the exertions of those on board. The vessel was seen from the shore; and one account which we have seen states, that she was met by several boats from Whitstable, who succeeded in getting all on board safe to land; and this account seems corroborated by the following notice, which was posted yesterday, in the afternoon, at Lloyd's:

The *Regent* steam-packet, bound to Margate, was burnt to the water's edge, yesterday afternoon, off Whitstable. Crew and passengers saved.

The cause of the fire is stated to be as follows:—The gale of wind being strong, blew the chimney flue away, and the wood-work, that is nearly breast high from the deck, at the bottom of the flue, for the purpose of keeping the people near the chimney from burning themselves, caught fire: the men in throwing the buckets over for water to put it out lost them, consequently the fire was not checked, and the captain immediately made for land, and got all the people and crew, and luggage, safe ashore, but

but the vessel is almost entirely consumed.

*From the London Gazette, Saturday,
July 5.*

By his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty.

A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE, P. R.

Whereas we have thought fit to order that certain pieces of gold money should be coined, which should be called "sovereigns or twenty shilling pieces," each of which should be of the value of twenty shillings, and that each piece should be of the weight of five penny weights three grains 2,740-10,000 troy weight of standard gold, according to the weights approved of and confirmed by us in Council, in pursuance of an act made in the 14th year of his Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act for regulating and ascertaining the weights to be made use of in weighing the gold and silver coin of this kingdom;" and we have farther thought fit to order, that every such piece of gold money so ordered to be coined as aforesaid, shall have for the obverse impression, the head of his Majesty, with the inscription "Georgius III. D.G.: Britanniar. Rex. F.D." and the date of the year; and on the reverse the image of St. George armed, sitting on horseback, encountering the dragon with a spear, the said device being placed within the ennobled garter, bearing the motto "Honi suit qui mal y pense," with a newly invented graining on the edge of the piece;

and whereas pieces of gold money of the above description have been coined at his Majesty's Mint, and will be coined there, in pursuance of orders which we have given for that purpose: we have therefore, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, thought fit to issue this proclamation; and we do hereby, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, ordain, declare, and command, that the said pieces of gold money so coined, and to be coined as aforesaid, shall be current and lawful money of the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and shall be called "sovereigns, or twenty shilling pieces," and shall pass and be received as current and lawful money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and every of such pieces shall pass and be received as of the value of twenty shillings of lawful money of Great Britain and Ireland in all payments whatsoever.

Given at the Court at Carlton-house, the 1st day of July, 1817, in the 57th year of his Majesty's reign.—God save the King.

By his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty,

A PROCLAMATION.

GEORGE P. R.

Whereas it has been represented unto us, that great quantities of the gold coin of this realm, deficient in weight, are now in circulation, contrary to the tenour of his

his Majesty's proclamations of the 12th of April, 1776, and 21st of September, 1787; and there being reason to believe that due attention is not paid to the weighing of the said gold coin, and to the direction given in the acts of Parliament now in force with respect to the cutting, breaking, or defacing of such pieces thereof as are found to be of less weight than those declared and allowed by his Majesty's said Proclamations to be current and pass in payment: we do, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, by this our Royal Proclamation declare and command, in like manner as was declared and commanded in his Majesty's before-mentioned Proclamations of the 12th of April, 1776, and 21st of September, 1787, that all guineas, half guineas, quarter guineas, more deficient in weight than the rates specified in the table following:—

Guineas, five penny weights eight grains;

Half guineas, two penny weights sixteen grains;

Quarter guineas, one penny weight eight grains; and that the seven shillings gold pieces, and the gold pieces called sovereigns or twenty shilling pieces, more deficient in weight than the rates hereafter specified, viz.

Seven shilling pieces, one penny weight eighteen grains;

Sovereigns, or twenty shilling pieces, five penny weights, two grains, three quarters;

be not allowed to be current, or pass in any payment whatsoever; and we do hereby strictly require and command all his Majesty's loving subjects, and particularly

all the officers, collectors, and receivers of his Majesty's revenues, strictly to conform to the orders hereby given, and to the directions and regulations enacted and established in the several acts of Parliament now in force with respect to the cutting, breaking, and defacing such pieces of the said gold coin as shall be found deficient in weight: and we do hereby farther ordain, declare, and command, that the guineas, half guineas, quarter guineas, seven shilling pieces, and sovereigns, of the weights above described, shall pass and be received as current and lawful money of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in all payments whatsoever.

Given at the Court at Carlton-house, the 1st day of July, 1817, in the 57th year of his Majesty's reign.—God save the King.

5. Another dreadful explosion has taken place in a mine near Durham, by the obstinate conduct of a man, in lighting a candle. The following is an extract of a letter from the spot:—

At two o'clock this morning (Tuesday), when the colliers went to work, the overman found it necessary to order Davy's lamp to be used in certain places, which order seems to have been attended to by the first shift of men, till 9 o'clock, when they were relieved by the second shift. An obstinate fellow, belonging to the second shift, when he relieved the man who preceded him, in the farthest working, (and at the same time the most dangerous, being in the last of the ventilation), persisted in lighting a candle, because he thought there was no danger, and because

because he thought he could see better with a candle. The poor fellow whom he relieved remonstrated strongly against the lighting of the candle, stating that the overman's orders were peremptory, and he even put the candle out by force. The infatuated victim, however, persisted, and lighted his candle again, when the other left him working with it. On his way out to the shaft he met with one of the deputy overmen, and told him what had occurred, who went with the intention of compelling the delinquent to do what was right, or to punish him; but whether he reached his destination or not we cannot tell, as the explosion took place in a few minutes afterwards, just as my informant, and a companion, who can also make affidavit of the fact, got out of the pit. We do not yet know the number killed, as I cannot get a correct list of the men at work, and the bodies are not all got out, but I fear it will not be less than 34 or 35 individuals. I do not think that more than four or five will survive out of 39 or 40. We have already got upwards of 20 dead out. The explosion was very strong, as the pit is 82 fathoms deep.

We are sorry to learn the additional misfortune, that on the following day, some pitmen having descended into the pit in order to ascertain all the mischief done, eight of them were suffocated, in consequence of the very impure state of the air.

The Imperial Ukase, by which the Bishopric of Abo has been raised to an Archbishopric in honour of the secular festival of

the Lutheran church, is as follows:—

We, Alexander I. by the Grace of God, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, Grand Duke of Finland, &c., make known by these presents, that as the Swedish Lutheran church, to which also Finland belonged, has had from old times one common supreme head, whose office it was to preside over the clergy, and to manage their deliberations and concerns in the assemblies, but that since the union of Finland with the rest of our dominions, the clergy have been without such a supreme head; we, therefore, constantly friendly to institutions which, by their antiquity and their value, have gained the esteem of the nation, induced by the remarkable event so important to the Protestant church, the memory of which will be this year celebrated by a general festival, have been graciously pleased to ordain that the present Bishopric of Abo shall henceforward bear the name of the Archbishopric of the Grand Duchy of Finland; and that the person who fills that see shall, in his quality of Archbishop, be the supreme head of the clergy in this grand Duchy. In testimony whereof we have signed these presents with our own hand. Done at Czarsko Selo the 8th (20th) of July, 1817. ALEXANDER.

9. All the accounts from the eastern part of Switzerland announce the terror and the damage caused by the late inundations. The storms have carried desolation into the lower parts of the canton of Glaris. The Linth has broken its dikes in three places. The bridges of Glaris and Helstal have

have fallen down; that of Miolis threatens to go to ruin. Gessau, Rutti, Fleriscue, and Hagelschauer, in Toggenburg, felt the whole violence of the storms of the 4th and 5th. All the torrents have overflowed. The bridge of Oberglatt is in ruins.

At Basle the Rhine rose so much on the 6th as to inundate the city as far as the fish-market; the citizens were forced to cross the streets in boats. The Rhine continually brought down with it trees, parts of buildings, drowned animals, showing by these numerous wrecks the ravages it has exercised elsewhere.

At Constance the Lake was much higher on the 6th than in 1666, and even some inches higher than in 1560. In spite of unremitting exertions the bridge of Lindau is carried away. On the banks of the Lake many communes are under water, and it is feared will continue so for a long time, the vent by which the waters must run off, when the Lake falls, being too small. In the lower Rheinthal, the surface of the waters which cover the fields and the roads, and upon which one may easily navigate between half-ruined houses, was three leagues in circumference. At Horn, and all along the Lake, a great many buildings are abandoned: the waters threaten the foundations of the most solid edifices. In the Oberland, many bridges have been carried away; the fields, the meadows, the plantations, were entirely submerged, and pieces of the soil were seen floating about, torn up by the fury of the waters, covered with potatoes, vegetables, and hay. On the 9th, during a

violent tempest, the lightning struck the village of Dittersweil, and burnt a house. Near Neutingen many cattle were killed by lightning. Other accounts equally distressing have been received from other quarters.

10. Early on Monday morning last, John Brown, Esq. of Greenockmains, was killed by his own bull. The animal first attempted to attack a boy, who fled out of his way, and next attacked the master with such a deadly aim near the heart, that though the family were in a few minutes alarmed, and carried him home, he was only heard to utter one word, and died in a few minutes. About six weeks before, Mr. Gilbert Anderson, a farmer in the same neighbourhood, was also attacked by his own bull, and besides having one of his legs broken, was otherwise very much abused. He is, however, happily recovering. Neither of the animals had before shown any vicious habits.—*Ayr Journal*.

11. The Prince Regent held a Court for the purpose of receiving a deputation from the Ionian Islands, with a copy of their constitution. They were well received, and his Royal Highness ratified their charter.

12. On Saturday an examination took place before the magistrates at Bourn, of *William Whitehead*, carpenter, of Easton, near Stamford, charged with having wilfully occasioned the late fire at Uffington-house, the seat of the Earl of Lindsey. It seems that this person was a suitor of the kitchen-maid, and had frequently been admitted to see her. On the night of the fire he had taken leave of the young woman before
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ten o'clock, but was afterwards seen on the premises as late as eleven. After the fire, therefore, he was apprehended on suspicion, but for some days strongly denied knowing any thing of the cause of the conflagration. At length, however, he confessed that he himself caused it, in the following way:—At half-past 12 o'clock on the night of the 2d instant, after the family had retired to bed, he contrived to open one of the kitchen windows, and through it got into the house. Bent on mischief, and finding that some fire was left in the kitchen grate, he put a quantity of it into the drawers of the large table; and by breaking a pane in the window which looks from the kitchen into the housekeeper's room, he also contrived to throw several red hot coals into that apartment, and some of them went under a large linen press or closet, and soon set it on fire: he then escaped from the house by the way in which he entered. Such is the account which the wretched man gives, and his representation is confirmed by all the particulars noted in connexion with the fire. It turns out that the man has been afflicted with temporary insanity; that he was lately under the care of Mr. Merveilleux, surgeon of this place, who decidedly considered him deranged in mind; and that it is an hereditary affliction. Under such circumstances Whitehead has not been deemed a proper object for a prosecution, but has been liberated, on bond given by his friends for his being taken care of in a way to prevent his doing farther mischief.

14. The Scotch emigrants who

lately arrived at Pillau, sailed from Leith about five weeks ago in the *Helen*, Charters. They consist chiefly of small farmers and shepherds from the southern counties of Scotland, who have been induced, by the liberal arrangements of Count Poe, a Polish nobleman, to settle as a colony on his estate of Dovsponda, for the purpose of introducing the improved agriculture of Scotland into the fertile but ill-cultivated plains of Poland. The Count has allotted a tract of his best land for the station of the colony, to which he has given the name of *Scotia*. They enter upon regular leases of 20 years, at a rent almost nominal; and, besides other peculiar advantages, they are, by an ukase of the Emperor Alexander, freed from the operation of the military conscription. Liberal provision has also been made by the proprietor for a Presbyterian clergyman, who will speedily join them, and who will also act as a schoolmaster to the settlement.

16. *Steam-Boats*.—The regulations recommended by the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to consider of the means of preventing the mischief arising from explosion on board steam-boats, are as follows:—

That all steam-packets carrying passengers for hire should be registered at the port nearest the place from or to which they proceed.

That all boilers belonging to the engines by which such vessels shall be worked should be composed of wrought iron or copper.

That every boiler on board such steam-packet should, previous to the packet being used for the conveyance of passengers, be submitted

mitted to the inspection of a skilful engineer, or other person conversant with the subject, who should ascertain by trial, the strength of such boiler, and should certify his opinion of its sufficient strength, and of the security with which it might be employed to the extent proposed.

That every such boiler should be provided with two sufficient safety valves, one of which should be inaccessible to the engineman, and the other accessible both to him and to the persons on board the packet.

That the inspector shall examine such safety valves, and shall certify what is the pressure at which such safety valves shall open, which pressure shall not exceed one third of that by which the boiler has been proved, nor one-sixth of that which, by calculation, it shall be reckoned able to sustain.

That a penalty should be inflicted on any person placing additional weight on either of the safety valves.

17. This day was launched from the King's dock-yard at Deptford, a new yacht, named the *Royal George*. The Board of Admiralty, Comptroller, and Commissioners of the Navy, were present, as also a large assemblage of persons, who filled the several booths erected for witnessing the ceremony. This vessel is one of the most elegant ever seen. The cabin-doors are of mahogany, with gilt mouldings, and the windows of plate glass. Ornamental devices, in abundance, are placed in various parts, all highly gilt, and producing a superb appearance. The following are the dimensions of this vessel,

which is the largest yacht ever constructed :—

	Ft.	In.
Length of Deck . . .	103	0
Length of Keel	88	5
Breadth	26	6
Depth of the Hold . . .	11	6

Burden, 350 tons.

Guns—Eight brass swivels of 11b. each.—Manned with 67 men.

Singular Character.—Died, in Glen-street, Kilmarnock, on Friday, 17th of July, 1817, William Stevenson, aged 87. He was originally from Dunlop, and bred a mason; but during many of the latter years of his life he wandered about as a common beggar. Thirty years ago, he and his wife separated upon these strange conditions, that the first that proposed an agreement should forfeit 100*l*. This singular pair never met again, and it is not now known whether the heroine yet lives. Stevenson was much afflicted during the last two years of his life with the stone. As his disease increased, he was fully aware of his approaching dissolution; and for this event he made the following extraordinary preparation :—he sent for a baker, and ordered twelve dozen of burial cakes, and a great profusion of sugar biscuit; together with a corresponding quantity of wine and spirituous liquors. He next sent for the joiner, and ordered a coffin decently mounted, with particular instructions that the wood should be quite dry, and the joints firm and impervious to the water. The grave-digger was next sent for, and asked if he thought he could get a place to put him in after he was dead. The spot fixed upon was in the church-yard of Ric-

Riccarton, a village about half-a-mile distant. He enjoined the sexton to be sure, and make his grave roomy, and in a dry and comfortable corner; and he might rest assured that he would be well rewarded for his care and trouble. Having made these arrangements, he ordered the old woman that attended him to go to a certain nook, and bring out 9*l.* to be appropriated to defray the funeral charges. He told her at the same time not to be grieved, for he had not forgotten her in his will. In a few hours afterwards, in the full exercise of his mental powers, but in the most excruciating agonies, he expired. A neighbour and a man of business were immediately sent for to examine and seal up his effects. The first thing they found was a bag, containing large silver pieces, such as crowns, half-crowns, and dollars, to a large amount: in a corner was secreted, amongst a vast quantity of musty rags, a great number of guineas and seven shilling pieces. In his trunk was found a bond for 300*l.* and other bonds and securities to a very considerable amount. In all, we heard the property amounted to 900*l.* His will was found among some old paper, leaving to his housekeeper 20*l.* and the rest of his property to be divided among his distant relations. As it required some time to give his relatives intimation of his death, and to make preparations for his funeral, he lay in state four days, during which period the place where he was resembled more an Irish wake than a deserted room where the Scots lock up their dead. The invitations to his funeral were most singular.

Persons were not asked individually, but whole families; so that, except a few relatives dressed in black, his obsequies were attended by tradesmen in their working clothes, barefooted boys and girls, an immense crowd of tattered beggars: to the aged among whom he left sixpence, and to the younger threepence. After the interment, this motley group retired to a large barn fitted up for the purpose, where a scene of profusion and inebriety was exhibited almost without a parallel.—*Glasgow Courier.*

21. The following decisive affair took place here between twelve and one this morning. One of the workmen of Mr. R. Gleadow, ship-builder, having occasion to look over the premises about seven o'clock yesterday evening, was greatly surprised to find the outer door of the counting-house open, and also the window of a small back office, with an inside wooden shutter, the latter of which was lifted up and battened to the top of the room as usual: they had all been left secure on Saturday evening. On his proceeding into the counting-house (the adjoining room), one of the closet doors was also found forced open, and several keys taken away. A large and small chisel, belonging to a chest that stood under the counting-house steps, and which, it appeared, had been broken open, were also found on the counting-house floor, with which the front and closet doors had been poised. It being clearly apparent, from all these circumstances, that a robbery of the premises was in contemplation and actual progress, Mr. Gleadow,
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on information, very properly took immediate steps for the prevention of the crime, and the detection of the robbers. Accordingly, at ten o'clock last night, Thomas Acum, a workman belonging to Mr. Gleadow, and another of his servants, were placed on guard in ambush, under cover of a shed, and near to the tool-chest and the steps leading to the intended scene of depredation; the former armed with a well-loaded piece, and the other with a stout bludgeon. About a quarter before twelve, they observed two men come from the top of the outer-dock gate, and proceed across the ship-yard carefully to the tool-chest, where they whispered together, and one of them filled his pockets with such instruments as suited the purpose, and turned round, up the counting-house steps; the other also did the same, and was following his companion, when Acum shouted out to them, "Halloo! what do you want there?" Upon receiving this alarm, the latter immediately ran, and was quickly followed by the fellow who had first gone up. Acum then fired as they made for the dock-gate, and was so sure in his aim, that he hit them both: one of them dropped down instantly dead, and his companion's arm is broken and shattered; but he was able to retreat as far as the crane upon South-end, where he was stopped, and delivered over to the military guard. They proved to be two fellows named Rogers (killed) and Akid, desperate characters, only last week discharged from confinement in Hull gaol. The body of the former was lodged in the House of Correction here, for the coroner's inquest, and the wounded

man is in custody at the infirmary. A quantity of tools taken from the chest was found in the pockets of the dead robber, and a large knife in the ship-yard, the latter of which is supposed to have been dropped by the wounded man in making his retreat. The town, and neighbourhood, we think, are under the greatest obligation to Mr. Gleadow for his cool and judicious arrangements in this affair, and the prompt result it has had; as there is little doubt that these men have for some time been a pest to the place, having not long ago been discharged from the prisons here. Akid states, that Rogers was a native of the Isle of Wight, and that himself is from the neighbourhood of Knottingley or Ferrybridge.—*Hull Paper*.

23. *Petersburgh*.—The erection and active support of schools in the whole extent of the empire, of universities and other establishments or the sciences, for which the nation are indebted to the wisdom and liberality of the Emperor Alexander, who since his accession to the throne, has already produced the most beneficial results.

Even in the most remote districts, among the uncultivated regions of Siberia, there has been diffused and awakened, by means of these schools, a desire for learning and instruction, and a taste for mental improvement, as the following facts from the government of Irkutsk, which are published officially by the Board of National Education, will show:—
"A peasant named Rowoscloff, of the village Wolostomask, has expended there 5,000 rubles in erecting a building for a school, 565 for supporting it for 5 years, and

402 for the purchase of books and other necessary articles. Another person of the name of Ramaroff, of the 12th class, has contributed for the support of a school for five years 2,825 rubles, and for the purchase of literary aids 533. Another head of a village advanced for the building of a school 1,000 rubles, and for its maintenance for six years 2,200. Another of the name of Ehamakoff, together with his assistant, Ehaltanoff, have contributed a house for a school worth 3,000 rubles, for supporting it five years 550, and for the purchase of literary aids 492.

29. *Berlin.*—That fine building, the Royal National Theatre, in this city, is destroyed. This forenoon, between twelve and one, a fire suddenly broke out in the right wing, which spread so rapidly, that in half an hour the whole building was in flames. A violent wind blowing towards the buildings of the Royal Commercial Establishment, excited great alarm for that also, for a large firebrand was carried to a part of it, and had nearly set fire to two of the houses.

The keeper of the theatre has saved but a few of his effects. It was not possible to think of saving the wardrobe, the decorations, the library, or the music, because in the wing where the fire broke out there were ten hogsheads of clarified oil, which it was also impossible to bring away, and which kept up for many hours a tremendous flame. We have to thank the activity of the firemen and of the police, that the two churches, between which the theatre stood, as well as the neighbouring houses, did not also

become the prey of the flames. Burning coals, carried by the wind, were found in several distant streets. The damage is estimated at above a million and a half (of crowns probably.) When the post set off the lower story was still burning, but the greatest danger was over.

29. The persons imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle on the charge of treason were set at liberty on Monday se'nnight, after receiving 7s. each to carry them home. The following are the names:—Hugh Dickson, Peter Gibson, John M'Laughlin, John Campbell, James Finlayson, Wm. Edgar, John Keith, Hugh Cochrane, Andrew Sinclair, and James Hood. And subsequently the following were discharged from the Glasgow gaol:—David Dryburgh, John Johnston, David Smith, John Buchanan, Peter Cameron, Wm. Robertson, and Aw. Somerville.

30. Lord Amherst and his suite arrived from China at Spithead, in an extra ship, taken up for the occasion. He was saluted with thirteen guns from the admiral's ship in Portsmouth harbour.

31. *Confession of Daniel Munn.*—The case of Daniel Munn, who was convicted of murder at the Hertford Assizes, was one of the most atrocious that ever occurred in the criminal annals of this country. He was convicted of the murder of John Payne, on his return from Hempstead market, where he was in the habit of selling corn for the farmers, and receiving their money, which he frequently took home with him. The prisoner was intimately acquainted with him, and consequently knew his habits as well as the

the road he travelled home from market: he attacked the unfortunate man in a lane unawares, struck him behind the ear and upon the head with a hammer, and then cut his throat. He was convicted on a chain of circumstantial evidence, so strong that no doubt could possibly remain in the minds of the court or jury as to his guilt; notwithstanding which, however, it is satisfactory to know that, previous to his execution, he made a full confession of his guilt, and stated the only circumstance which did not come out in evidence, viz. where the hammer and knife were deposited with which he committed the murder. The unhappy wretch also made a voluntary confession of two other horrid murders which he had committed; the one on a poor old woman (by the name of Hall), who kept a small shop at Dagnall, near his own residence—he (he rented a small farm in the same parish under the Earl of Bridgewater). He stated, that he went into her house (being known to her) about nine o'clock in the morning; that he took an opportunity of getting behind her and striking her with a bill, which lay in the house, behind her ear; that he then cut her throat with a knife similar to the one he cut poor Payne's throat with (a butcher's knife); and on being asked where he had secreted that knife, he said in a well on the old woman's premises; that he took 40l. from her, 23l. of which he paid to Lord Bridgewater for rent, and the remainder he paid away to different persons in the village in discharge of small debts. This occurred about a year and a half

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ago. In respect to the murder of his wife, he stated that he followed her into the cow-house, where she went to give some hay to the cows, about two o'clock in the afternoon; that he struck her unawares with a billet of wood behind the ear, which nearly killed her; that he immediately afterwards dragged her to the well, and put her down it, head foremost. This occurred about six weeks before the murder of Payne. She was found in the well on the same day, upon an alarm being given by her husband. He could assign no motive for this horrid act. He admitted, he and his wife had frequently words together, but not on that day, and stated that she was a good wife. It is not only fortunate for the ends of public justice, but more particularly so for the immediate neighbourhood in which these horrid transactions occurred; two innocent men having been strongly suspected of the murder of the old woman at Dagnall, and the whole neighbourhood being under the most horrid apprehensions of repetitions of the cruel scenes which had so recently taken place there. Munn was executed on Monday morning, in pursuance of his sentence; he died as penitent as a man could die with such a weight of guilt upon his head. On the scaffold he begged the spectators to take warning by his fate.

AUGUST.

2. On Saturday there was a deplorable incident at Irvine. The brig Anna had just completed her cargo

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cargo for Halifax, when the master went on shore to bid farewell to his friends, and convey to the ship two of the last passengers. In going out of the harbour, it was found difficult to row the boat, and recourse was had to a sail. The night was breezy, and the boat wanted ballast; and, it is supposed, that it was upset in tacking. No one either on shore or in the brig observed the catastrophe: and it was far in the forenoon of Sunday before it was known. There were on board, beside Captain Miller, two seamen, and a member of the Society of Friends from Belfast, with his daughter, who was going out to join her husband in America. It is melancholy to think that they all perished. The body of the lady has been cast on shore.—*Edinburgh Courant*.

6. *Stutgard*.—The town of Welzheim had, in an address to the king, of the 17th June, accepted the plan of the constitution. The same has now been done by 52 villages and hamlets of that whole district. Sixteen deputies, chiefly of the class of peasants, presented the address to the king, on Sunday, the 3d instant. Their spokesman, the worthy high forester, Faber, made a speech, to which his Majesty returned a most gracious answer; and afterwards conversed in the most affable manner with these country people, and listened to all their wishes. His Majesty gave orders to entertain them well at the royal expense, and, after they had had an audience of the queen, who made many inquiries of them concerning their economy, they returned home with a thousand wishes for their

Majesties welfare. In their address they say, among other things—"The language of your Majesty is that of a well-meaning brave king; publicity is the foundation of the constitution offered by your Majesty; and this is our security, that it is your Majesty's will to reign over a free people.

"We are confident that a constitution, founded on the force of the upright sentiments of the people, will protect our posterity against the encroachments of ill-disposed sovereigns better than the old constitution could do, whose important guarantee is hourly proclaimed to us by a bell from our chief town, Welzheim, upon which Madam Von Wurben, to whom the place was given as a present, calls herself "Chief Governess of the Country, and Lady President of the Privy Council," and this at a time when the old constitution was at its full vigour! (Madam Von Wurben was mistress to one of the Dukes of Wurtemberg.) May it please your Majesty, we agree with joyful hearts to the royal plan of a constitution, with the modifications given in the rescript of the 26th May, and with God's will, we shall not be the last of the country people who, with entire confidence, offer their hands to make an agreement with their upright king."—*Allgemeine Zeitung*, Aug. 11.

7. *Isle of Man*.—On Thursday a new code of criminal laws, an act for regulating the sale of herrings, and also an act for abolishing all paper money for the payment of sums under 20s., having previously received the royal assent, were proclaimed according

according to ancient usage, upon the Tynwald-hill, before the inhabitants of the island, in the presence of the Lieut.-Governor, the Lord Bishop, the Attorney-General, and other authorities of the island. An impressive discourse was preached by the Lord Bishop upon the occasion, in which he strongly recommended a general improvement in the administration of the laws, and solicited the legislature to abolish all distinction in the law of debtor and creditor, as it affected the native and the stranger; a distinction which had long been prejudicial to the character and credit of the island. His lordship also animadverted with great force upon the spirit of litigation, which was so injurious to the interests of the island, and trusted that immediate steps would be taken for correcting it. Divine service being ended (which according to ancient usage was in St. John's chapel), the Lieutenant-Governor, Council, Deemsters, Keys, &c. proceeded to the Tynwald-hill. Two chairs of state and a table were placed beneath a canopy erected upon the summit of the hill. The chair on the right of the table was occupied by the Lieutenant-Governor, C. Smelt, Esq.; that on the left by the Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the diocese, surrounded by the council, &c. The Lieutenant-Governor having ordered proclamation to be made, the promulgation of the new statutes commenced; which, as usual, were announced, sentence by sentence, in Manks and English. During the recital of the Bankers and Cardnote Suppression Act, there appeared a manifest disposi-

tion to tumult amongst a part of the assembled crowd, which increased in such a degree as to require the assistance of the civil power. That power was found ineffectual. Several stones were thrown by the mob at the hill upon which the legally constituted authorities were placed; but fortunately without effect. At this juncture, the Lieutenant-governor directed the military (a detachment of the 85th regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Ashton) to give their aid. The show of resistance was continued for a short time; when the majority of the insurgents, seeing a few of their leaders subdued, and taken into custody, fled with all the speed they could. Most of the ringleaders are committed to the gaol at Castletown; and warrants are issued against others. Only one of the mob was slightly wounded in the arm by a sabre. It appears that this tumult was occasioned by a false report, industriously propagated, that the new laws had for their object the levying a heavy tribute upon herrings, to support the bishop and clergy! The act respecting the herring fishery only prohibits the use of tarred nets, and orders the sale to be no longer by the tally, but measurement by the cran, agreeably to the arrangement in the British fishery.

8. *Constance*, (*Grand Duchy of Baden*.)—It appears that Madame Krudner has likewise been refused permission to reside in the kingdom of Wurtemberg. After having harangued the Jews at Gailingen and Bandegg, whom she declared to be the peculiar people of God, she arrived here. Not being

being allowed to remain here above 24 hours, she proceeded, on the 1st of August, to Houbin, a canton of Thurgovia. She there awaits the answer of the government of St. Gall, from which she had solicited permission to establish herself in that canton. While expecting it, her missionaries preach at Houb, sometimes from the windows, sometimes in the fields, calling the baroness a prophetess. She herself preaches with all the enthusiasm of an ardent and fanatic spirit. She distributes every day bread, and some hundreds of measures of economical soup. Her adherents receive them on their knees like a gift from God. Her ordinary suite is composed of about 40 persons; among whom are remarked, Madame de Berekeim, two Protestant ministers, and a lame woman, who has brought her a contribution of 10,000 florins. Her adherents are in the habit of saying, —“ We call no one; but those who are the elect of God will follow us.”

Extraordinary Contempt of Law.
—*From the Cork Southern Reporter.*—A duel took place in Killarney on Friday last, between two young gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood of that town, Messrs. Lawlor and Dumas; the former attended by Mr. William Power, of Cork, the latter by Mr. Edward Orpen, of Kenmare. The affair terminated without personal injury to either party, but it has been the means of placing some of the relatives of both in very peculiar circumstances. Baron Smith was, on the day the duel was fought, and had been for some preceding days, in Killarney. On

his way to visit the Lakes on Friday, he first heard of the intended rencontre; and the house of Mr. Dumas, father to the young gentleman of that name, who was involved in the affair, lying in his way, the Baron called there, and laid his commands on Mr. Dumas, that he would take immediate measures to prevent the meeting, which was promised. At the same time, the Baron dispatched a note to Mr. Lawlor, brother of the other principal in the intended duel, to the effect, that he should immediately bind him over to keep the peace, under heavy penalties. This note, we understand, reached Mr. Lawlor almost at the instant his brother was going out, and notwithstanding the high authority from which it proceeded, he declined, situate as the affair then was, to interfere. The parties met, and fired two shots each with the most determined coolness, when, principally through the judicious interference of John O'Connell, Esq. of Grenagh, and Lieutenant Meredith, of Dicksgrove, late of the Royal Navy, an accommodation took place. On the return of the Baron to the hotel, in the evening, he then learned, that notwithstanding his instructions to the persons already named, the duel had taken place; immediately upon which, though it was then a late hour, he wrote letters to all the parties, ordering them to appear before him the next day (Saturday), with which mandate they of course complied. The interviews being in the Baron's private chambers, we are not otherwise acquainted with what occurred than through report, which states, that the principals and seconds were

were severely admonished for their conduct under the circumstances—that one magistrate, Mr. Lawlor, was fined one thousand pounds for his disregard of the judge's order, the Baron delaying till the next evening to express his determination with respect to Mr. Dumas, sen. at whose conduct he testified extreme displeasure, as he had received his promise that the meeting should not have taken place.

The New York Commercial Advertiser of the 9th contains the following paragraph:—

Naval Forces on the Lakes.—It has been published, that the British are dismantling their vessels upon the Lakes. This, we learn from good authority, is in pursuance of a mutual understanding between the American and British governments, that neither power shall retain more than two revenue cutters of two guns each, on either lake, in service; and that six months' notice shall be given by either of an intention to augment this force. In this arrangement the interests of the two governments are mutually promoted, and many occasions of collision and jealousy avoided. It saves a great expense to both, and is besides an evidence of confidence and good will which it is the interest of both to promote.

13. On Wednesday afternoon, about two o'clock, as a caravan with the stupendous elephant was coming from the fair, one of the wheels accidentally became fastened in a gutter by the side of that very steep part of the road just below Spencer's Belle Vue. Both the hind wheels had been dragged; and the driver, instead of loosening one of them, endea-

voured to extricate the entangled wheel by a sudden jerk. This, it is supposed, discomposed the unwieldy tenant of the vehicle; which instantly upset with a tremendous crash, fell on one of the shaft horses, and killed the fine animal almost instantly. The elephant became unmanageable even by his keeper, and after many useless efforts to lift the caravan, it was deemed proper to let it remain in its fallen state till the middle of the night; when the animal was enticed by large pieces of bread and buckets of water into an adjacent coach-house, and the vehicle was taken away to undergo the extensive repairs rendered necessary by the accident.—*Bath Herald.*

14. *Winsbuden (Principality of Nassau).*—The union of the Reformed and Lutheran churches, which had so often been attempted in vain, has been at length happily effected in the Duchy of Nassau, in the following manner.—In deliberating on the manner of celebrating the secular festival of the reformation, the two superintendents-general, Muller and Grise, had entertained the idea of giving to it the greatest possible solemnity, by uniting the two Protestant communions. The reigning Duke having adopted this idea with a particular satisfaction, caused a general Synod to be convoked, composed of the two superintendents, of all the inspectors, and of 38 pastors, among whom were 20 Lutherans and 18 reformed. This Synod held their sittings on the 5th and 9th of August in presence of a Ducal commission. As all scholastic subtleties were avoided, the discussions

sions were confined to the two essential points—First, whether they should unite in one church? and, secondly, what was the best means of effecting this union?

The first question was unanimously decided in the affirmative in the first session. To decide on the second, the Assembly was divided into seven different Committees, which united to determine on the points proposed by the Superintendents, and to transmit in writing to the Commission their opinion on this matter. According to the majority of these opinions, which were almost unanimous on the principal object, the following points were established:—

1. The United Communions shall bear the name of Evangelical Christian Church.

2. The general superintendence over all the clergy shall be divided between the two superintendents, according to a geographic line, and shall finally be united in him who shall survive the other.

3. The districts of inspection shall be, &c.

4. In the places where the two confessions shall be intermixed, the respective property of the two churches shall form one and the same fund, and shall belong to the church for the necessary expenses.

5. The central property of the two churches shall be united into one fund, and shall serve for paying the expenses of organizing the seminary of Herborn, for the candidates of theology.

6. In the places where there shall happen to be two clergymen of the different confessions, they shall remain there provisionally,

and shall officiate together at the same altar.

7. The Palatine liturgy is provisionally adopted. In the distribution of the communion, a large host shall be regularly provided, expressly for the purpose, and shall be broken into several parts. This mode shall be followed by all the communicants who shall be confirmed for the future. The more aged persons shall be permitted to receive the communion in the accustomed manner, but in private, and after having explained their reasons to the clergyman. This general decision has been sent to the reigning Duke, and we expect his sanction immediately.

15. *Berne*.—The Federal Directory has communicated to the Cantons, in a circular of the 2d inst. the following note from the ministers of the allied powers, respecting the residence of the persons included in the ordinance of the 24th July:—

The ministers of the cabinets, who signed the treaty of the 20th November, 1815, having decreed, among other things, that all the French individuals comprised in the two lists of the 24th July of the same year, would be permitted to reside only in Austria, Prussia, or Russia, where their Royal and Imperial Majesties are willing to grant them asylums, the undersigned ministers of the four allied courts have the honour to remind Mr. de Tschann, intrusted with the affairs of the Swiss confederation, of these regulations. They wish also to inform him, that, impressed with the necessity of enforcing their execution, they have adopted the determination, that all the above-mentioned individuals

viduals who may be found in any other country than Austria, Prussia, or Russia, must prepare themselves to proceed to the states of one of those countries by the 15th of August.

The confederation having acceded to the treaty of the 20th November, 1815, which sanctioned the said regulations, the undersigned cannot doubt its disposition to second the wishes of the allied courts. They consequently flatter themselves, that as soon as it is acquainted with the present determination, it will categorically declare to the French exiles comprised in the two lists who may be in its territories, that they are to choose between this and the 15th August, one of the three

countries in which they will be permitted to reside, and that the government of the confederation will watch over the execution of a measure which has been dictated only by a desire to promote the general tranquillity and safety, and the indispensable necessity of which experience has demonstrated.

Yarmouth.—The interesting spectacle of laying the first stone of a naval pillar on Yarmouth Denes, to commemorate the victories of the immortal Nelson, took place this day. At half past twelve the procession moved to the place chosen for this national memorial of British heroism in the following order:—

Constables, Flags, Band,
Mayor and Corporation, Officers of the Navy,
Model carried by Sailors,
Flanked by Sailors carrying Flags.
Architect, and Secretary, Committee, Flags, &c.

The first stone was laid by Col. Wodehouse, as chairman of the committee. The day being fine, rendered the sight truly animating. In the stone was placed a plate, on which was engraved a Latin inscription, written by Mr. Sergeant Frere, the learned master of Downing.

Lymington.—Yesterday afternoon a seaman of the name of Benger went off to the ship *Mary Ann*, bound to New York, with about 250 passengers, and took into his boat about 20 persons, whom he landed at Yarmouth, where they remained some time, and then returned into the boat to proceed on board their ship, but, owing to a strong wind and tide, the boat was forced under

the bows, and 17 persons were drowned.

18. A shocking accident happened on Monday se'nnight to an unfortunate man named Stokoe, working at Riddell's Wallsend colliery, near Kenton. He was employed, along with another man, in taking the small coals from the screens, and throwing them upon the heap, which, as is well known, is generally on fire in the inside. On this occasion he had left the security of the wall, along which the barrows are trundled, and was proceeding over the top of the heap to throw his load more over it, when, as he was passing over its centre, the surface suddenly fell in with its weight, the inside being burnt quite

quite hollow, and he was engulfed in the burning abyss, which instantly closed in upon him, and sent forth a volume of flame and smoke like the crater of a volcano. The person who was working along with him was not aware of the fate of his companion till he perceived the flames bursting from the opening made in the heap; any assistance to the unfortunate sufferer was entirely out of his power. Not a vestige of the body has been seen.

20. *Proclamation by M. Dewett Clinton, Governor of the State of New York, General and Commander-in-Chief of all the Militia, &c. &c.*—Whereas it is represented to me that a pestilential fever prevails in the city of Charleston, in the state of South Carolina, and in the city of Savannah, in the state of Georgia, I do, therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me by the act, entitled, “An act to provide against Infectious and Pestilential Diseases,” prohibit all intercourse and communication between the city and county of New York, and said cities of Charleston and Savannah. And I do order and direct, that no person shall be permitted to enter the said city and county of New York, who shall have been in either of the said cities of Charleston and Savannah, until twenty days shall have elapsed after such persons shall have been in either of the said cities of Charleston and Savannah. And I do further order and direct, that all vessels arriving in the port of New York, from any place in the United States south of the Delaware, and all other vessels on board of which any sickness or death has occurred, during their last voy-

age, or during their stay in the ports from which they last came, shall, until the 1st day of October next, anchor at the place assigned for quarantine, and shall be subject to an examination of the health officers, and to such regulations as may be deemed expedient by them. And all officers intrusted with the execution of the said act, and all other persons, are requested to take notice and govern themselves accordingly, under the pains and penalties imposed upon offenders by the said act, which will be rigorously enforced.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed the privy seal of the state, at the city of New York, the 20th day of August, A.D. 1817, and in the 42d year of the Independence of the United States.

DEWETT CLINTON.

21. Five persons were burned to death by the explosion of the fire-damp in a coal-pit near Bradford, Yorkshire, owing to the bottom of one of the safety-lamps of Sir Humphrey Davey having been separated from the body, from its being soldered instead of rivetted; thereby forming a communication between the internal and outward air.

22. The trials of the state prisoners, as they have been called, closed at York this day (Saturday); and of the 24 persons against whom the government solicitor was instructed to institute prosecutions, ten have been pronounced not guilty; against eleven others no bills were found; and one has been liberated on bail; leaving only two of the whole number in confinement, and those two unfortunate men have been detained, without

without trial, by a Secretary of State's warrant, under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act.

The failure of these prosecutions has not been owing to any want of zeal, or any deficiency of means, on the part of the government. Some time before the trials came on, the Solicitor for the Crown was sent down into the neighbourhood of Huddersfield, to collect evidence against the prisoners: in support of this evidence, a large portion of the weight and talent of the bar on the northern circuit was ranged on the side of the prosecution; and that nothing might be wanting to give importance to these proceedings, Mr. Gurney was sent down from London at the expence of Government, to take reports of the trials. Against all this weight of power and influence, seconded by the public purse, a few obscure men and boys, principally in the very lowest ranks in society, had to defend themselves. The odds were terrific; but with the zeal and intelligence of their professional advisers and advocates, and the presiding presence of a righteous Judge, who knows no distinction between the lofty and the humble in the administration of justice, the trial by jury obtained another distinguished triumph, and the prisoners, after a period of deep anxiety, were restored to their liberty and to their friends.

23. Yesterday two inquests were held, one before Mr. Unwin, the other before Mr. Stirling, on the bodies of the two female servants and of the child, who were found drowned in the New River. These women, whose names were Sarah

Croft and Mary Ayling, had been left in the charge of the house of Mr. Guy, of Palmer's-terrace, Holloway, while the family were in the country. They were, it seems, of the most abandoned profligacy, and had admitted to their bed two journeymen painters, who were at work in the neighbourhood. The girls slept together in one bed, and each of the painters slept alternately with both at once. A neighbour had discovered these proceedings, and threatened to write immediately to Mr. Guy on the subject. The women were alarmed, and having been possessed with the idea that they should be sent to prison, appear to have formed the frantic resolution of destroying themselves. Sarah Croft then went for her child, a girl about 13 months old, and the infatuated pair next proceeded to the New River, where they drowned the infant and themselves. The Coroners, thinking the case one of more than ordinary guilt, recommended a verdict of *felo de se* against the women, and of murder with respect to the child. Warrants were issued for burying the bodies of the two suicides in the cross-roads, and the child was ordered to be buried in Newington Church-yard.

Letter from Westphalia.—The Minden Sunday paper contains a remarkable circular letter to the Evangelical clergy of both confessions in the Prussian Monarchy, on occasion of the intended celebration of the secular festival of the Reformation, in which there is the following passage:—

The representation of the occasion and the object of the reformation

mation will afford the clergy ample materials for edifying reflections and discourses, calculated to affect the minds of their hearers, without their being tempted to give their sermons a tendency hostile to their Non-Evangelical brethren. The spirit of truth which animated the Reformers, and in whose energy they began and accomplished the great work, is also a spirit of peace and of love. The fruits of this spirit, according to the exhortations of the Apostles, should be kindness, justice, and truth. Only on account of the few Clergymen who might perhaps forget this, it must be mentioned that in sermons to be delivered on the Festival of the Reformation, every expression of bitterness or contempt towards the adherents of another mode of belief, as it would be wholly incompatible with the dignity of the Evangelical Church, would likewise be directly opposed to the expressly declared will of his Majesty the King, it being his desire that the pure representation of the spirit of the Reformation, without any mixture of unfriendly expressions towards other confessions, be the general theme on which the Clergy in his Majesty's dominions shall uniformly preach, upon the prescribed choice of texts.

The Ministry farther observes, that the name of Protestants, significant as it was at the time of its introduction, though it is more adapted to indicate the defence made at that time of the external rights of the Evangelical Princes and States in the concerns of religion and church government, than the peculiar spirit and meaning of the Evangelical Church; yet even

in this last sense occasions various misconceptions, and has, in fact, been here and there misemployed in this manner in these latter times.

It seems therefore advisable, on more accounts than one, to leave these denominations, Protestant, Protestant Church, to history, to which they belong, and henceforward universally to employ in their stead, especially in religious writings and discourses, the more proper and more generally intelligible terms, Evangelic Church, Evangelic Christians. Luther himself disapproved of all party names. He remonstrates in his writings against the professors of the Evangelic faith, calling themselves, after his name, Lutherans, and refers them to the sole foundation of the Christian faith, the doctrine of Christ the Evangelist. In the celebration of the approaching high festival of the Church may the Spirit of their Divine Master repose on all faithful labourers in the vineyard of the Lord, and crown their endeavours with success!

The Ministry of the Interior,
(Signed) V. SHUCKMANN.
Berlin, June 30, 1817.

According to this official declaration, the names Protestant and Lutheran will for the future be disused in the Prussian dominions.

Constantinople.—During the last fortnight the plague has spread in a most disastrous manner in this capital, and at Pera and Bujuk-dera. The affrighted inhabitants precipitately abandon their homes. The Turks themselves begin to feel the attacks of this scourge. Ten persons have died in the suite of the Grand Vizier. The intend-
ant

ant of the Depot of Slaves, who had temporarily received a young man since attacked by the plague, has fled from the house. After the death of the younger son of the Austrian Internuncio, who fell a victim to this contagion, the whole legation has retired to Belgrade, a place situate a league to the north of Bujukdera.

25. The Government vaults in Liverpool, containing a considerable quantity of bonded brandy, were discovered to have been entered, by some means which still remain a mystery; and seven pieces of brandy had their original contents drawn off and refilled with water. A small hole had been made in the brick roof of the vault from the building above, through which the liquor had been conveyed by means of a pump, but not large enough to admit any person. Some additional casks had been taken in on Saturday, and the presumption is that the principal agent in this extensive theft must have then obtained admission; and, when the vaults were re-opened on Monday, have effected his escape. The doors were, as is customary in these cases, secured by three locks, on which no force appeared to have been used.

26. *Breslau*.—A part of the inhabitants of this city, belonging to the first requisition of the landwehr, and who were about to be incorporated therein, had, from a mistaken view of the legally prescribed form of the oath, refused to take it within the limited term, and thereby occasioned a delay in the administration of the oath to others who were willing to take it. The opportunity afforded by this delay was taken an advantage of

by some of the evil disposed among those who objected to the oath, to gain over a great number of those who had been previously willing to take it.

A second limited term being fixed, the oath was taken by a few of those who had been summoned, but refused by far the greater part; and some who had taken the oath were ill treated by those who objected to it. The maintenance of the laws, civil order and tranquillity, as well as the security of the well-disposed, rendered it necessary to remove promptly some of the malcontents, who had openly declared themselves, and thereby avert their further mischievous influence.

This circumstance was made a pretext by some hundreds of disorderly persons, for proceeding to acts of violence early on the 23d. Though this tumult was soon suppressed by the vigorous measures which the superior military authorities adopted, and the judicious co-operation of the Magistrates, still the rioters had sufficient time to commit several excesses, and to attack some public buildings, which they entered. Several of the rioters are already arrested, and delivered over to the due course of law. These transactions excited the horror and indignation of all the inhabitants of the town; and the burghers, through the Magistrates as their representatives, expressed their sentiments to the following effect, viz. "To expel from their body, with re-payment of their entrance-money, all those who persisted further in refusing to comply with the laws respecting the landwehr."

This honourable declaration of
their

their fellow townsmen quickly convinced the malcontents of the impropriety of their refusal, and the oath was afterwards quietly administered. Order and tranquillity was therefore completely restored even on the 23d, and no disturbance has since taken place.

28. *Silesia*.—The rioters in Breslau, who refused to take the landwehr oath, founded their opposition on the cantonal rights formerly enjoyed by the burghers of Breslau, which are, however, long since repealed by the landwehr oath, and the general laws. On the occasion of refusing the oath, six burghers in particular made use of very indecorous expressions, and several others who were willing to take the oath were very severely assaulted. During the night, these six burghers were arrested and conveyed to the Fortress of Neisse. Immediately after, a false report was spread that two of the wives of the prisoners had thrown their children into the river, and then leaped in themselves. This falsehood, perhaps designedly circulated, caused the disorders to break out.

29. Being market day, several farmers met at an inn, at Shepton Mallet, in Somersetshire, where a conversation took place, in which a man named Croker, of advanced years, and a young man named Hawkins [his presumptive son-in-law] took an active part. At length the parties became opponents in argument. The old man was obstinate and declamatory; the young man was contradicting and perverse; and at length their argument was considered too desperate to be settled, except by a reference to blows.

By an exhibition of this nature, the hearers and by-standers were soon gratified; but from the serious character which the contest assumed, they interceded, and further bloodshed was prevented. Harmony was again shortly restored; and the parties proceeded on their way to Oakhill (where the old man, Croker, resided) about two miles from Shepton Mallet. They had not, however, proceeded far before another pugilistic contest was resorted to, which, however, by the interference of some casual travellers, was soon interrupted; their differences were arranged, and they pursued their journey. Some bad passion still being the inmate of the young man's breast, he provided himself with an instrument from a contiguous gate, and felled Croker to the earth by a violent blow, which was fatal, and left the poor old man's lifeless corpse upon the ground, with one eye completely driven from its socket! At this time it was about half-past ten o'clock, and the daughter of the old man (Croker) becoming uneasy at the absence of her aged parent, went in search of him: her progress, however, was soon interrupted by her kicking against something which appeared to be human, and upon turning round to satisfy herself upon this point, she discovered that it was not only human, but alive, and affrighted at the circumstance, she ran rapidly home, supposing that the person she had seen had placed himself there for no honest purpose. On her return home she went to sleep, and dreamt that her father had been assailed by ruffians; she accordingly again mustered

mustered courage enough to go in search of him; she had not proceeded far before she saw a bundle, containing articles which she was convinced belonged to her parent; on going a few yards farther, she discovered his corpse. A hue and cry was raised throughout the whole neighbourhood, and, upon an examination of the body, several fractures were discovered upon the skull, and the eye found lying in the dust. Inquiries were immediately instituted, and Hawkins was apprehended, after the Coroner's Jury had deliberated and found a verdict against him of Wilful Murder. He was committed to Shepton gaol.

SEPTEMBER.

1. The late squally weather has been productive of considerable damage to the shipping engaged in the herring fishing off the coast of Caithness, and of very calamitous consequences to some of the crews of the boats and their poor families: three boats, one from Prestonpans, another from Buckie, and a third from Helmsdale, having five men in each, were totally lost off Helmsdale, early on Tuesday se'nnight; great anxiety prevails at Cromarty, Campbeltown, Avoch, &c., as several of the boats from those places are still unheard of.

The Fever.—The attention of the Irish government has been already turned to this subject. The Managing Committee of the Cork-street Fever Hospital, in Cork-street, to meet the humane wishes of the Lord Lieutenant, have notified that eighty additional beds, for the accommodation of patients

labouring under contagious fever, will be immediately opened in the new building adjoining to the said hospital.

Patients in the house

from last month... 146

Admitted this month. 276—422

Discharged cured.... 276

Died..... 15

Remaining in hospital. 131—422

2. *Derry*—In the course of last week several new cases of fever have occurred in this city and neighbourhood. The booths for the accommodation of the poor now contain 110 patients.

Limerick — Medical Report of the Fever Hospital for the month ending the 1st of September:—

In the house, 1st of

August..... 167

Since admitted..... 274—441

Cured..... 251

Died..... 24

Remained..... 166—441

4. *Kilkenny*—The following is the state of the House of Recovery for the months of July and August. The fever is by no means, however, of the most fatal kind:

Patients remaining in

the house 1st July. 30

Admitted in July.... 77

Admitted in August. . 101—208

Patients dismissed cur-

ed in July and Aug. 157

Died in ditto 5

Remaining in the house 46—208

On Saturday the 6th, about 2 o'clock, a gang of fellows, about 7 in number, broke into the hay-yard of Denis Lyons, Esq., at Courtbrack, in the south liberties of Limerick, and having discovered a ladder standing against a rick of hay, they placed it under the window of Miss Lyons's bedroom, and four of them, by this means,

means, succeeded in getting in. They then proceeded to the bedroom of Mr. James and Mr. Denis Lyons, the latter of whom, on hearing a noise, immediately jumped out of bed, and was instantly knocked down by a blow with a horse-pistol—when down, one of the fellows stood on his hands, while the remainder proceeded to search the room, alternately breathing the most horrid threats and imprecations. Mr. Lyons, finding that resistance would be vain, entreated of them to spare his life, and the lives of his family, and he would give them what money was in the house, his pocket-book, his watch, the keys of every part of the house, and two large silver cups—but they rejected this offer, and vehemently swore that “nothing would satisfy them but blood or money.” After an ineffectual search, they became much exasperated, and beat the unhappy gentleman about the head in the most dreadful manner, and then retired, leaving him weltering in his blood, which flowed profusely from the wounds. Returning to Miss Lyons’s room, they commenced a search here also, and found a small basket, in which was about 5 pounds in silver, received a few days before for rent of some potatoe ground—this they pocketed, and descended from the window in the same manner. They took nothing from the house but the money, and went off through the field, towards Mr. Harvey’s. Those who came in were not at all disguised: the remainder, it is supposed, were left outside to watch and prevent the family from getting out to raise an alarm. When the fellows were gone, it was found necessary to

send for a medical gentleman; a messenger was dispatched at that early hour, and Dr. Carroll was called on, who immediately went out armed, and probed and dressed the wounds, which are deep, though not dangerous; the principal fear is of fever. It is singular, that a very fine watch-dog, which was kept in the yard, has not since been heard of.—*Limerick Advertiser.*

A beautiful child, about 9 years of age, walking with her mother (one of the visitants) on the cliff at Margate, on Sunday the 9th, was suddenly missed, and on further search, it was discovered that she had fallen over the cliff, and the tide being off, was lying dead on the beach below.

We have a melancholy duty to perform, in recording the commitment to our county gaol of *John Wakefield*, of Northwich, in this county, a person of great respectability, and carrying on the business of a salt proprietor, charged with the wilful murder of Richard Maddocks, a flatman, employed on the canal in that neighbourhood, on Monday evening last. The circumstances of this afflicting case, as they have come to our knowledge, are in brief as follows:—It appears that a woman servant, living in the house of Mr. Wakefield, was acquainted with the deceased; and as Mr. W. had frequent occasions to leave home, he uniformly discovered on his return that a considerable reduction had taken place in the contents of his ale cellar and larder. His suspicion fell on this female; and on Monday the 8th, being Northwich-wake, she took the opportunity with her friends of availing herself of the festivities
of

of the day. In the evening, Mr. Wakefield finding that she had not returned, went on the lookout for her, and soon found them both, loitering about the premises, although he had frequently insisted on Maddocks discontinuing his visits. Mr. Wakefield told him to go about his business, and in the end a scuffle ensued, in which Maddocks was knocked down. He got up, and ran away. Mr. W. who had got a sword-stick from the house, speedily followed him, overtook him, and in the rencontre, drawing the fatal weapon from its sheath he passed it through the body of Maddocks, who ran some distance before he fell. Previous to this, the girl had made the best of her way home. About 12 o'clock the deceased was found some 50 or 60 yards from the place where he had received his wound: he was not dead, but he was speechless; life was nearly extinct, and in a few minutes he breathed his last. The lamentable occurrence, even at that late hour, soon became generally known; a numerous body of flatmen collected, threatening a dreadful vengeance. Mr. Wakefield barricaded the lower part of his house, seized a double-barreled gun, and stood on the defensive. The police officers, however, arriving, Mr. Wakefield quietly surrendered himself. A coroner's inquest was held on Tuesday, when a verdict was found of *Wilful Murder*, and on Wednesday morning the wretched man was lodged in our county gaol, charged with the offence. On examining the body of Maddocks, it was ascertained that the dirk had pierced his heart; another wound was discovered, also mortal! Mad-

docks was a good-looking man, aged about 21.—*Chester Chronicle*.

8. *Dublin*.—Yesterday evening, about ten minutes after six o'clock, as the Belfast day mail-coach, on its way to Dublin, arrived at Lissen-hall, a short distance beyond Swords, the coachman found his way obstructed by two carts being placed across the road. Soon afterwards a body of armed men, about ten or twelve in number, appeared. The front horses were seized, and about the same time the banditti fired three shots, one of which passed through the hat of one of the guards (Luke Redford), and unfortunately took effect in the back part of his head, but, we trust, will not produce any very serious result. The passengers, eleven in number, seven outside and four inside, many of them females, were then rifled, in the most brutal manner, of all the valuable effects and property about them. While the robbers were engaged in plundering the passengers, a post coach came up, in which were the Marquis of Donegal, his son (Lord Belfast), and another gentleman, well armed; an attempt was made to stop the post-coach, but by the exertions of the coachman in whipping the horses over a large trunk, they most fortunately escaped. They had not proceeded far when they met a party of horse patrol, who immediately went in quest of the robbers. A foot patrol had already been sent in that direction, in consequence of a robbery having been committed the night previous, at the house of Mr. Hanney. We have the pleasure to state, that none of the passengers in the Belfast coach have suffered any personal injury, and also that
the

the entire of the mail bags have been fortunately preserved. As soon as information of the robbery arrived in town, a very strong detachment of police was sent out to scour the country in every direction.

9. The rebellion at Breslau has been suppressed by the energy of the high civil and military authorities. The criminals are delivered over to justice; and they will be punished with the utmost rigour of the law, as an example to those who may be tempted to imitate them. This course is absolutely necessary, if the government would not wholly lose all authority.

Belfast.—Accounts from Belfast state, that the fever still rages in the counties of Down and Antrim. This dreadful malady has attacked almost every house in Downpatrick: the clergyman of the parish, the Rev. Mr. Forde, has been one of its victims. It begins to spread in Belfast, but not with the malignant symptoms that have appeared in other places. The following mode of prevention is recommended, as having stood the test of experiment:—A handful of salt being put on a plate, pour over it a pennyworth of oil of vitriol; shut the windows and doors of the room for some time. It produces a great smoke, and is the most effectual preventive to infection.

Derry.—We lament to state, (says the *Derry Journal* of Tuesday,) that the fever, with which we have been so long and so severely visited in this city and suburbs, is not subsided. Its ravages still proceed unchecked; every day produces new cases; it has taken its course among all

ranks of society, and some of our most valuable fellow-citizens have fallen its victims. It has nearly superseded all other subjects of conversation; and the usual chit-chat of the morning is converted into anxious inquiries for the safety of our friends. But among the poor, as may naturally be expected, its progress has been most destructive. The tents which have been erected for their reception still continue crowded. Although on Thursday last 29 persons were discharged as convalescent, and on Saturday 26, still 111 remain uncured, and most of them in danger; nor is there any immediate prospect of their numbers being diminished, from the frequent daily applications to the committee. These tents have been erected now four weeks, and only 14 persons, young and old, have died within them during that period. This is a proof of the wisdom and the humanity of the measure; and we trust that, if steadily and judiciously conducted, it will be ultimately instrumental in arresting the progress of infection.

Within the last 11 days, 59 coffins have been given to the poor.

10. *Nismes.*—It is certain that robbery and murder is no longer committed in the open streets, but still we stand upon a volcano, and some event totally foreign to us may cause a new explosion, more violent than that we have already experienced. To the atrocities of a furious and fanatical populace have succeeded the most deplorable of all iniquities, that of the tribunals. We once hoped that this evil was perhaps peculiar to our department; but we have acquired the melancholy certainty that

that the influence of the persons who hold the Gard in oppression is extended at pleasure beyond its limits. The government, in order to withdraw great criminals from that fatal and deplorable influence, had transferred the trial of some offences to the Assize Court of the department of the Drome, and the following was the result of that proceeding: — Two unfortunate women (Protestants) were assassinated in their houses at Nismes. Several witnesses saw the crime committed, and recognized the perpetrators. The new Prefect, M. d'Argout, whose conduct merits the highest praise, caused them to be arrested, and the witnesses, in spite of menaces and intrigues, had the courage to declare the truth. The prisoners were however scandalously acquitted. One indeed was detained on another charge; the other and the witnesses for the defence arrived here in a sort of triumphal state, in carriages decorated with branches of trees.

This evening, soon after seven o'clock, a fire broke out at the house of Mr. Salisbury, a dealer in clothes near Holborn-bridge, in Fleet-market. His extensive premises were soon entirely destroyed, and those of his neighbours on both sides were much damaged. The speedy arrival of the engines, and the extraordinary activity with which they played upon the parts affected, subdued in a short time the violence of the conflagration, and prevented its further spread, except to a few small buildings behind, which were very much injured. A hackney-coach which had passed the premises while the fire was raging was seen at a little distance from

the spot to emit smoke. The coachman sitting on his box, was driving on towards Blackfriars-bridge, unconscious of his danger or the accident that had befallen his coach, till the passengers in the street apprised him of the circumstance, and stopped his horses. By this time the flames had actually reached the hammercloth, and the coachman was involved in smoke. The singularity of the accident drew a crowd of people together, which prevented us from learning the particulars; but it was supposed that a spark had fallen from the houses, and kindled some hay in the boot of the coach, which was open. The passengers within immediately alighted, without any injury, and the fire was soon extinguished.

One of those melancholy events, which have too frequently occurred in the neighbourhood of the Lakes, took place at Windermere on Friday the 12th. Mr. Greaves, of Bowness, and Lieutenant Satterthwaite, of Hawkeshead, accompanied by a young man of the name of Fisher, were sailing for a trifling wager, when a gust of wind suddenly arising, and the Lieutenant's boat carrying too much sail, she was upset, and unfortunately he and his companions were drowned.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent visited the coast of France, from whence he was landed at Brighton, in safety and in high spirits, on Saturday afternoon the 13th, at 1 o'clock, having been four days and three nights at sea! On Thursday morning, the yacht and ships of war stood off for the coast of France, but the wind shifting to the southward, a boat was despatched to the shore for the Prince's

Prince's letters. They all again stood over for the French coast, and were off Dieppe, close in with the land, early on Friday morning; where communication being had, the yacht and squadron cruised across the Channel again, and reached Brighton at one o'clock on Saturday, when the Prince landed, regretting that, his presence being required in town, he was obliged to disembark. His Royal Highness slept on board three nights. He was gratified beyond description, and enjoyed the highest state of health and spirits during the whole of the excursion.

We have the painful duty to announce the following lamentable intelligence:—Mr. Charles Joseph Hellicar, Demi of Magdalen College, Oxford, eldest son of Mr. Joseph Hellicar, of this city, and Mr. George Gresley S. Whitchurch, student of Baliol College, youngest son of the late Mr. S. Whitchurch, during the present vacation were at Guernsey, and wishing to visit France, sailed on the afternoon of the 12th of August for Cherburg. Some few hours afterwards the wind changed and became violent, and it is believed the fury of the gale met their vessel whilst passing the Race of Alderney, and that they there perished. No account of the vessel having reached any French port, and more than a month having elapsed without intelligence to any of the parties connected with the sufferers either in Guernsey or England, the melancholy inference is too obvious. Mr. Hellicar was in his 22d year; at a very early age he had received the highest classical honours of the University, and had lately

taken his degree of Master of Arts: his friend (a year younger) felt emulous of his example, and gave marks of the highest promise—but they are no more.—*Bristol Journal*, Sept. 13.

15. In the middle of last December, a respectable farmer named Howard, whose age on the day of his death was 90, was murdered in his own house, within three miles of Uxbridge. The situation of the house is peculiarly solitary, being surrounded with trees and fronted by a large lake, where now and then a fishing-boat was to be seen. The family, which were almost the only inhabitants within a very extensive circuit, consisted of the venerable farmer, his grandson, and an aged female servant. The fondness of Mr. Howard for his grandson, Bond, received no interruption from the moment of the birth of the latter, who was taught to look upon the property of his grandfather as his inheritance. The old man had stock in the Bank of England, and took much pleasure in the journey to London to receive his dividends, which amounted to 30*l.* quarterly. A few days before the murder, he had been upon one of those journeys, and on his return, being weary, he retired to rest. He never rose again. Upon the return of Bond from some occupation at six o'clock in the evening, he found his grandfather dead. Near him lay a large crab-stick, upon which was a quantity of blood. The body was dreadfully disfigured, and the front of the head was not distinguishable from the back. The old housekeeper was lying senseless on the ground. Bond immediately ran to the labourers employed in the adjacent meadows

meadows, and described the murder that had taken place, exhibiting all those symptoms so natural to a relative of the deceased. They all repaired to the house of Mr. Howard. They examined the apartments, but no violence had been done to any part. It seemed to have been the act of some miscreant, who either was influenced solely by revenge, or so horror-struck at the deed which he found necessary to perform before his object of plunder could be accomplished, as to fly from his first intention. There was, however, one remarkable circumstance which excited suspicion against the grandson. The old man was in the habit of carrying the key of his bureau in the left pocket of his waistcoat. The housekeeper was acquainted with his ways, and that there were private drawers in the bureau which could be known to no stranger. The old gentleman had received his 30*l.*, and he must have deposited it in one of those secret drawers. If the object of the murderer was revenge, the money must be in the drawer, for it was locked. The suggestion was attended to, the bureau was broken open, but no money was to be found. Every eye was fixed on the grandson, who did not show the slightest sign of confusion. On the contrary, he agreed in the general opinion, that the robber must be the murderer, and that he could have been no stranger. He invited investigation, for the sake of his own character; and for the blood of his grandfather he called for a strict inquiry into the dreadful case. He was taken before a magistrate. The housekeeper was

called on to tell what she knew.— She knew nothing, but that somebody came behind her in the kitchen, and struck her so violent a blow that she fell senseless on the ground, and that the fright had never left her since. Some time before this, she had been waiting upon her master, who was then in health; upon recovering she saw him a corpse. The person who struck her spoke, but was not seen by her. A report previously existed that the old man had a long time ago made a will, in which he bequeathed all he was worth in the world to his grandson, but that some circumstances had recently occurred which rendered it probable that an alteration was meditated in the disposal of the property. It is said that the grandson showed much impatience upon hearing this suspicion, and an inference unfavourable was then drawn from his conduct at the idea of suffering any disappointment. The magistrate discharged him; but those who were interested believed the case to be one of the vilest in the catalogue of murders. It was a singular fact that the old man's will was afterwards found open. Upon being read, the inheritance was found to devolve upon his grandson, who was put in possession immediately after his discharge. Bond returned to the house, buried his grandfather, and lived in the same solitary place. Months rolled on, and still no tidings of the murderer. The agitation of Uxbridge began to subside, when a few days ago it was revived with the greatest violence. A gentleman sent to the Bank two notes, one for 20*l.* and another for 10*l.*

The Bank were not idle upon hearing of the murder. The numbers of the notes which were paid to Mr. Howard when he went to receive his dividend had been taken, and the necessary order for stopping them issued. Those very notes for 20*l.* and for 10*l.* were the notes which had been taken out of Mr. Howard's bureau. The Directors of the Bank, with all that alacrity so laudable upon the occasion, traced the notes through about thirty hands, and at last came within three miles of Uxbridge, and found them in the hands of Bond. The grandson was immediately conveyed to town. By the advice of an experienced barrister, the bill for the robbery was yesterday presented to the grand jury at Clerkenwell. After the examination of thirty-five witnesses, it was found a true bill.

Liverpool.—We are very sorry to find, that a severe epidemic fever, of the typhus kind, is now raging among the lower classes of the people in this town. We understand that the large and well-arranged Fever Hospital belonging to the town is actually overflowing, and that a number of patients are necessarily provided with accommodations elsewhere.--*Liverpool Courier.*

Frankfort.—All the Protestant universities of Germany have been invited to send, by the end of October, deputations to the chateau of Warburg, near Eisenach, in the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar, where a grand fete is to be celebrated, in honour of the Reformation. It was in this chateau that Luther resided for several years, under the protection of the Dukes of Saxe, when ordered to be arrested by Charles V.

17. A most melancholy accident happened in the family of Sir John Thomas Stanley, Bart. Three of the maids had the charge of bathing Sir John's youngest daughter, and at the time of high water they repaired to the bathing-place, where it seems they all stripped to bathe, and, shocking to relate, the four were found drowned. Every means to restore life were tried ineffectually for four or five hours, by Dr. Parry, of Holyhead, and Dr. Roberts, of Carnarvon. Lady Maria was from home when the accident happened, and it is easier to conceive than to describe the distress that was visible at her first interview with Sir John (who had been a witness to all the experiments tried on the bodies). The sufferers were Alice Witcher, aged 33; Elizabeth Jackson, aged 21; Charlotte Andrews, aged 20; all from Northwich: and Miss Elfrida Susannah Stanley, aged three years and eight months.

18. This day a General Court of Proprietors was held at the Bank of England to consider of a dividend. The meeting was also one of the Quarterly General Courts appointed by the charter.

About 12 o'clock, Mr. Harman, the Governor, took the chair, and after stating the object of the meeting, moved to declare that a dividend should be made of 5*l.* per cent. interest and profit for the half year ending on the 10th day of October next.

The Hon Mr. Bouverie moved an amendment, consisting of the resolutions to the following effect:

1. That by the 12th by-law of this corporation, this Court is called on to consider the state and condition

condition thereof, previous to a declaration of a dividend.

2. That this Court has no means afforded them to pay obedience to this enactment, although similar demands have been continually made, on similar occasions, without such necessary information.

3. That this Court is induced, solely by the reliance it has on the full responsibility of each and every of the Directors, for any erroneous application of the profits of the corporation, or any undue withholding of the same, to order, as it does thereby order, that—— [here followed the words of the original resolution, moved by the Governor, declaring the half-yearly dividend of 5 per cent.]

Sir Thomas Turton seconded the amendment, which was put and negatived.

The original motion was immediately put and carried.

A minute of the proceedings was then drawn up and read, and it was ordered, that the warrants for payments of the dividends should be made out for the 11th of October; after which the Court adjourned.

19. *Cork*.—A meeting of the Committees of the House of Recovery and Dispensary was held on Monday and Wednesday, at the Commercial-buildings, to ascertain the health of the city, with respect to the contagious fever. The result of both which meetings was, that the number of cases was found to be not less than four hundred (including 300 in the two houses), and that its progress latterly was directed towards the upper classes, and marked with peculiar severity. Under these

circumstances it was determined to apply to government for aid, and that a general collection should again be made on Sunday se'nnight in the different places of worship in the city and neighbourhood, in aid of the almost exhausted funds of these institutions.—*Cork Chron.*

Extract of a letter from Downpatrick, dated Sept. 16.—"Typhus fever is very prevalent in this town; at present 100 persons labour under that malignant disease."—*Freeman's Journal*.

20. *Belfast*.—We have just heard from Armagh, that the fever has become so alarming, that a town meeting is to be held for the purpose of devising the best means of preventing the disease from extending its baleful ravages.—*Belfast News Letter*.

On Saturday morning as two fishermen from the parish of Ruthwell were traversing the sands of the Solway Frith, opposite the Priestside, about four miles within highwater mark, they were alarmed by an extraordinary noise, and having directed their steps towards the spot from whence it proceeded, discovered a whale floundering in the shallow water, and endeavouring in vain to extricate itself from its perilous situation. It was groaning so loud as to be heard at the distance of nearly a mile. The fishermen, astonished and terrified, used no means of securing the monster, and the tide soon afterwards flowing, covered it, without, however, affording it sufficient depth to float. When the sea retired, it was found dead, having been probably suffocated, from its being unable, in that situation, to raise its head above the water so as to inhale

inhale air, which is essential to its existence. Assistance being procured, it was quickly cut to pieces, and the blubber was carried to shore in carts. This whale seems to have been of the Narwhal or Monodon genus; differing, however, in some particulars from any that we have yet seen described. Its skin was about the eighth of an inch in thickness, of a glossy and dusky black, in appearance somewhat resembling Indian rubber, but of a darker hue. Its length from the tip of the snout to the extremity of the tail was 36 feet; its height at the shoulder about 8 feet; and its greatest horizontal thickness about four feet and a half. The head was not easily to be distinguished from the rest of the body, and ended in a snout, about two feet long, projecting rather abruptly, and tapering gradually towards the extremity. The back was ridged, and had a fin issuing from it, about five or six feet from the extremity of the tail. This fin was triangular, a little hollowed in the back part, inclined towards the tail, and a foot in height. The swimming paws were nearly of the same size. There was only one blow-hole situated over the nape of the neck. The mouth was very small, not larger than would have easily admitted a man's arm, and entirely destitute of teeth or horny plates. The lobes of the tail, which were horizontal, had a direction away from the body, and were blunt and rounded at the tip. The blubber was from one inch to four, and even six inches in thickness, and seemed to be full of very fine oil. The Narwhal species,

usually, have one tooth or horn, sometimes even two, growing out of the forepart of the upper jaw, whence they derive the name of Monodon; but no such peculiarity was to be discovered in this animal.

23. A most extensive fraud on the revenue has been detected at Liverpool. The particulars detected are these:—A large lighter was fitted out as a foreign merchantman, with false deck and sides, with masts, sails, and rigging: she was entered out at the Custom-house for another country, and a very valuable cargo shipped on board; the goods selected were those on which the greatest drawbacks are given, or rather the whole duties paid on importation were to be returned. The vessel sailed round the rock or point of land into the Irish channel; her false sides were knocked in, her masts struck, and having every appearance of a lighter, she sailed again up the river Mersey to Runcorn (a short distance from Liverpool), where the cargo was landed and sent by different conveyances to London. The officers have got notice of the transaction, and have traced the goods to town, and several seizures were made in the city on Monday. It is not known to what extent this fraud has been carried, or what length of time it has continued; but it is believed that the parties concerned had practised it with ports in the Irish channel for such a length of time without meeting interruption, that they were emboldened, and brought the goods to a short distance from Liverpool, being more convenient for them. The detection is stated to have taken place in the most simple

simple way, a lighterman saying on the quay at Liverpool, that pepper and other colonial productions were landing at Runcorn, and that he would wish to have such a job. No lighter could be traced to have left Liverpool. An investigation immediately took place, which has brought this flagitious business to light.

From the London Gazette.

In pursuance of the directions of an act, passed in the 37th year of the reign of his present Majesty King George III., intituled "An Act for confirming and continuing for a limited time, the restriction contained in the minute of Council, of the 26th of February, 1797, on payments of cash by the Bank;" and also of the several acts since passed, for continuing and amending the same;

I do hereby direct, that there be inserted forthwith in the London Gazette, the following notice from the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, dated 18th September, 1817, namely:—

"That, on and after the 1st October next, the Bank will be ready to pay cash for their notes of every description, dated prior to the 1st January, 1817."

CHARLES MANNERS SUTTON,
Speaker.

September 22, 1817.

25. *Waterford Chronicle.*—It has become our painful duty to detail the particulars of an outrage of the most cruel and sanguinary barbarity, perpetrated at Springhill, in the county of Waterford, adjoining the road to Passage, and at the distance of three miles from this city. On the night of Tues-

day last, about the hour of nine, Captain Johnson, late paymaster of the Waterford militia, his family, and Mr. Surridge, of Ross, who had that day paid them a visit, were sitting in the parlour, some of them amusing themselves with cards, and others engaged in conversation. Mrs. Johnson had occasion to leave the company on some family-business, and she requested her husband to take her place at the card table. The parlour where the party were is low, and the windows at a very short distance from the ground. On Mrs. Johnson's return, she went to the window for the purpose of looking at the state of the weather; on opening the upper shutters, she suddenly exclaimed, that she saw a man under the window. Mr. Johnson immediately opened all the shutters, and threw up the sash, when he beheld two or three men in front of the house. On inquiring from them their business at that hour of the night, a pistol, or blunderbuss, was instantly presented, and fired in his face. Part of the shot wounded him above the left eye, and profuse bleeding followed, but this wound was afterwards found not to be of a serious nature. As there were no arms in the house, the family retired up stairs to a bed-room over the kitchen, and locked the door; they were fired at in passing through the lobby. The house consists of two wings; the bed-room is on the side opposite to the parlour, and at no great distance from the ground. Several shots were then fired through the bed-room window, some of which shattered the frames to pieces, and lodged in the ceiling. The

The number of the assailants was eight; five of them gained admission into the house, probably through the parlour window, and three remained on the outside. Those who entered went to the bed-room door and tried the lock, but did not attempt to enter by force. They remained in the house about three quarters of an hour. When the family reached the bed-room, Mr. Surridge made his escape through the window, with the manly design of procuring assistance under such fearful and perilous circumstances; but he had not proceeded far when he was overtaken and seized by two fellows, one of whom presented a pistol, while the other urged his associate to blow out the brains of their captive. The last of these savage ruffians had a butcher's knife in his possession, with which he made a blow at Mr. Surridge, and cut him dreadfully over the muscular part of the left arm. Mr. Surridge then seized the knife with both his hands, but the fellow turned it in his grasp, and it cut severely both his thumbs. Mr. Surridge was knocked down in this terrific scuffle, but escaped in a manner which his situation has prevented him from being able accurately to explain. He crossed the Pill to the opposite side, but fell down through loss of blood, and remained in a state of insensibility for a considerable time. At length, however, he reached the house of Mr. Cotton, where he still remains, and where he has experienced the most humane attention from that gentleman and his family, and from the neighbours of Mr. Cotton. When Mr. Surridge had escaped from the

bed-room window, he called out "murder!" On this, Mr. Johnson went to the window, and was again fired at, the shots entering his left breast, and the wounds inflicted by them depriving him of all power of exertion. The family remained in this condition till their enemies had left the house. A gold watch and considerable property were exposed to their view, and wholly at their command, but it is not yet fully known that they carried any thing off with them except some keys. At length, one of the Misses Johnson repaired to the house of Mr. Usher, a magistrate, who, accompanied by his nephew, Mr. Hewson, returned with her to her father's, and entered most zealously into the transaction which had taken place, and afterwards went in pursuit of the criminals. A servant was despatched to this city, with a request for the immediate attendance of Dr. Poole; and here another feature of this inhuman transaction unfolded itself. The messenger was encountered near Cove by the assailants, deprived of his horse, and threatened with death if he should dare to proceed. This circumstance delayed Dr. Poole's arrival at Mr. Johnson's till five o'clock yesterday morning, no information having reached him till four. There were three wounds in the chest, but only two balls (slugs) have yet been found and extracted. The knife by which Mr. Surridge was wounded, and the cuff of a coat, were found on the spot where the struggle occurred. One of the banditti wore crape on his face; the rest were undisguised.

26. Yesterday, about one o'clock

at noon, a Welchman, named David Owen, a cow-keeper, came to town from Edmonton, and proceeded to the house of one Jones, his brother-in-law, who is also a cow-keeper, resident in Gibraltar-row, Prospect-place, St. George's-fields. After knocking at the door he was admitted to the room on the ground floor, where Jones, with his wife and maid-servant, was at dinner. After sitting for a few minutes, he started up, and with two knives, (with which he had provided himself before his visit,) he rushed to the execution of his execrable purpose. He first attacked the man Jones, whom he wounded dreadfully in the belly and the head, so as for some seconds to deprive him of sense and motion. He then flew at Mrs. Jones, his own sister, and inflicted upon her several shocking wounds: he stabbed her in the forehead, cut her severely though not dangerously between two of her ribs, and having thrust his knife in her mouth, drew it clean through the face to the ear, lacerating her tongue, and laying the cheek completely open. The ruffian last struck at the servant-girl, whom he seriously cut in the face and one of her hands, besides dividing the main artery of her arm. The poor wretches, though faint and almost insensible with terror and loss of blood, contrived to make their way into the street, where they were immediately observed by their neighbours, and were carried into the adjoining houses till medical assistance could be procured. In the mean time the assassin had fastened the door of Jones's house, and with loud

imprecations threatened to destroy any person who should dare to approach him. This threat, together with the impression of the horrible scene before them, and the circumstance of Owen (who is a remarkably large and powerful man) being armed with two knives, completely deterred the multitude, though soon consisting of many hundreds, from attempting to enter the house. Police-officers, however, were sent for, and on their arrival and after the interval of nearly an hour, it was determined to break into the house and seize the desperate villain. For this purpose a great number of persons armed with pokers and crow-bars, some with ladders at the windows, and some on the ground, made a simultaneous attack on the house, and bursting it open above and below, rushed in with great force. They found Owen on the first landing place, standing with an air of defiance, and whetting his knives one upon the other, as if for the purpose of rendering them more effectually murderous. One of the officers, however, without a moment's delay, struck him a violent blow with a crow-bar on the head, which knocked off his hat and staggered him; and another instantly took advantage of his tottering, seized one of his legs, and threw him on the ground. Still the ruffian was able to resist, which he did so obstinately, that the officers were compelled to beat and even wound him severely about the face and body, before he was subdued to a state of acquiescence; they then put him into a hackney-coach, and conveyed him to the prison in Horsemonger-

Horsemonger-lane, thousands of the multitude attending the coach, with arms of various kinds, in order to prevent the possibility of his escape.

While this was going on, surgical aid had been procured for the wounded, and the result of the examination made by Mr. Dixon, surgeon, of Newington, was, that he considered the husband likely to die, the wife dreadfully though not mortally wounded, and the girl, though very seriously hurt, likely to recover. The man and the servant were at the recommendation of the surgeon taken to one of the hospitals in the Borough. Mrs. Jones was carried back to her own house.

The Norwegian brig *Bergetta*, Captain Peterson, was wrecked on Cefn-Sidan Sands, in Carmarthen Bay. She was bound from Barcelona for Stettin, with a cargo of wine, spirits, &c. when the master losing his reckoning, owing to a thick fog, fell into the fatal error of taking the coast of Devon for that of France, and acted under that persuasion. So circumstanced, a violent gale, together with the tide, drove the vessel into the Bristol channel, and she struck upon the above sands, and, in the space of two or three hours, went to pieces. The master and crew, with great difficulty, got into the boat, and were all happily saved. Notwithstanding the greatest exertions on the part of the officers of the Customs, supported by several gentlemen and others, acts of plunder were committed to a considerable extent. Of 266 pipes and casks of wine, &c. not above 100 have been saved! Hundreds of men

and women were reduced to nearly a state of insensibility through intoxication.

28. Particulars of the distressing fire which occurred at Neustadt, in the duchy of Holstein. The fire originated in the house of a distiller. Only five dwellings in the whole town escaped the general conflagration; and not fewer than 1,400 inhabitants have been left without the means of shelter. This unfortunate place has an excellent harbour on the Baltic, and very extensive expeditions were despatched from it at the time during which Lubeck was occupied by the French. A great quantity of corn is said to have been consumed in the warehouses on this disastrous occasion. Every attempt was made to save the merchants' stores from the flames, but unfortunately without effect, owing to the high wind, which increased their fury.

30. We are sorry to relate a dreadful accident which happened near Kirby-parsonage, Bungay, the residence of the Rev. Mr. Wilson. Two very fine young men, both under twenty years, the Hon. Messrs. Keppel, sons of the Earl of Albemarle, went out with their guns, and in getting through a hedge the coat of the one caught the other's trigger, and the whole contents of the gun lodged in his brother's leg. The youth not wounded rendered his brother every assistance possible, but finding he could not remove him, or do him any permanent good, fled with the greatest speed for medical aid, which happened most unfortunately to be at a great distance; and, sad to relate, on his return with a surgeon he found

found his brother had bled to death.

OCTOBER.

3. About 20 minutes before seven in the morning, the corning-house of the gunpowder works belonging to John Hall, Esq. at Ore, near Faversham, containing about 12 barrels of powder, blew up with a tremendous explosion, levelling instantly every part of the building to its foundation, and spreading the massy timbers in every direction. At the moment of the explosion there were three men employed therein, whose bodies were literally blown to pieces, the scattered fragments of their limbs being found at considerable distances from the spot. Their names were—Thomas Wanstall, aged 18 years; John Robinson, 45; and James Philpot, 24; the latter has left a wife and child to bewail his fate. In this, as in all former instances of a like nature, no cause can be assigned for the lamentable event, other than the nature of the process in the corning-house, certainly the most dangerous in the manufactory; but in this instance it is the more remarkable, from the machinery having been put in motion by water flowing with a regular current. Had the accident happened 10 or 12 minutes sooner, its consequences would have been more fatal, as Mr. Johnson, the overseer of the works, and five other persons, were in attendance at the building, removing 10 barrels of powder. The house and mill of Mr. Ashenden, at Ore, received a severe shock from the concussion

of the explosion, and had most of the windows broken; the windows of several other houses at Ore were also partially broken; and the effect was extended to Faversham (although a mile distant), where the windows of several houses were similarly injured. The sound of the explosion was heard in the direction of the wind, which was easterly, for nearly 10 miles.

4. *Disturbances at Worcester.*—This city has been the scene of a dangerous riot. On the 7th of August a meeting of freemen of Worcester took place at the Hop-pole Inn, to consider the best means of removing certain encroachments alleged to have been made on Pitchcroft, on which ground the freemen have a limited right to depasture cattle, &c. A committee was appointed to investigate the subject: on the 25th of August the committee announced that they had unanimously resolved to serve notices on all persons who had encroachments on Pitchcroft, to remove them on or before the 29th of September; but subsequently considering that the removal of the whole of them would be attended with great loss to a charity which derived a considerable income from them, they deemed it most desirable to direct the removal of those buildings and fences only which appeared most obnoxious, and which the parties interested agreed to remove before the 29th of September. Notwithstanding, however, all these endeavours to prevent any breach of the public peace, the expectations of the committee were disappointed.

On the morning of Monday last, between eight and nine o'clock, numbers

numbers of persons began to assemble in the neighbourhood of the encroachments, and when sufficient numbers were collected, they commenced the demolition of fences and buildings of all descriptions which were not strong enough to resist their efforts, and totally destroyed an inhabited house. Information being conveyed to the magistrates of these riotous acts, they proceeded to the spot, where the riot act was read; but neither this measure nor remonstrances producing any effect, and the civil power being found quite inadequate to the task of dispersing the mob, it was resolved (about 12 o'clock) to require the assistance of the Worcestershire yeomanry cavalry. The few members of this corps who resided in the city and vicinity assembled with all possible dispatch, and in the afternoon Col. Cocks arrived: it was not, however, thought advisable to conduct the yeomanry to the scene of the riot, for by the time they had assembled, the disorder had in a great measure ceased; they accordingly remained in the streets of the city until eight in the evening, when it was announced to them that their services were no longer required. Late in the evening and on the following morning new outrages were committed; it was therefore deemed advisable yesterday morning again to call out the yeomanry, and to have the civil power in attendance; the magistrates also issued various hand-bills, warning the populace of the punishment which awaited a continuance of riot. In the afternoon the yeomanry cavalry had assembled in considerable num-

bers; but no disturbance took place, and the city is again perfectly tranquil. The cavalry still remain in town. The damage done is very considerable, and the place attacked presents a singular scene of devastation: not only have fences been levelled, but buildings of various descriptions either totally or partially destroyed, and of course plunder has as usual accompanied riot; the timber-yards have been robbed of articles to a considerable amount. The greater part of the places destroyed are not included in the encroachments which the committee ordered to be removed. Twelve persons have been committed to the city gaol, charged either with being concerned in the riot, or with having abetted those who were; and warrants are out against others. The mob used every effort to irritate the cavalry, and two persons were apprehended (one by Col. Cocks) in the act of throwing stones at them.

6. *Common Hall.—Election for Lord-Mayor. — Seventh and Last Day.*—At the usual hour the poll closed, and the numbers were declared as follows:—

Mr. Ald. Smith	2,273
Mr. Ald. Atkins	1,585
Lord Mayor	827
Mr. Ald. Goodbehere	768

7. The whole interior and exterior of the New Mint, together with the military way and adjoining edifices, has been lighted with gas, by means of an apparatus erected by government, within the walls of the Mint. The gas for illuminating this establishment is prepared, not by distilling coal in retorts, but by means of a 10-foot cylinder, which revolves horizontally

rizontally round its axis, and produces every 24 hours a sufficient quantity of gas to light 1,600 lamps. The purification of the crude gas is effected in its nascent state by chlorine, instead of quicklime, and all the inlet and outlet mains and branch pipes are made to open and shut by self-acting mercurial valves. The quantity of gas daily made, and consumed by the burners and lamps, is recorded in the absence of the observer by a machine, impelled and kept in motion by the elasticity of the gas. The effect of the numerous lights scattered upon so extensive a scale, over the beautiful machinery of the coining processes, is uncommonly striking; and the New Mint now exhibits the most elegant establishment of the kind in the world.

8. *Petersburgh*.—Intelligence has been received from General Yermaloff, the Russian ambassador to Persia. He has been treated with the greatest distinction since he passed the Persian frontiers. He found at several post-stages, for his use, white horses from the royal stud, which are ordinarily employed only by the King and his family. Besides his general mission to maintain a good understanding between Russia and Persia, he has also private instructions, embracing objects relating to commerce and the sciences. Several officers will quit the Legation at Ispahan to proceed to the ports of the princes whose states are situated between Persia and the British possessions in the East Indies. These states are more or less towards the south of Russia in Asia, and it is therefore wished

to establish commercial relations with them.

9. *Louth*.—In the night of Tuesday, the 7th instant, Thomas Hall, aged about 70, and Mary Grant, his housekeeper, of about the same age, who had many years resided by themselves in a very lonely cottage in Theddlethorpe, about 12 miles from Louth, in Lincolnshire, were most inhumanly murdered by some diabolical monster or monsters in human shape, who entered the back wall of the house by a breach made therein for the bloody purpose. The dead bodies of these unfortunate victims were first discovered about three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday the 8th instant, by some labourers, who expected Hall to meet them, at a previous hour, to assist in some work at a drain, near his house, and who, after waiting beyond the time appointed for his attendance, proceeded to ascertain the cause of his absence, by calling upon him, when, after observing large quantities of blood, which had streamed through the floors of the upper rooms upon the floors and furniture of those below, they advanced up stairs into the two bed-chambers, in one of which they beheld the appalling spectacle of the mangled corpse of the housekeeper, placed in a sitting posture upon the floor, with her back against the wall, having on her stays and under petticoat, and, in the other, the still more terrific object of her dead master, lying with his face upon the floor, and having on no apparel but his shirt.

Upon the arrival of the coroner and

and jury to view this scene of carnage, on the 9th instant, the bodies, but more particularly that of Mr. Hall, exhibited almost every conceivable mark of the most sanguinary barbarity. Many savage blows had been inflicted upon his head and face, an attempt had been made to cut his throat, in defending which he was deeply stabbed in various parts of both arms, and one of his fingers was nearly severed by a cut; in his shoulders, legs, and thighs, he had also many deep stabs; but the most furious attack appears to have been upon the trunk of his body, where four deep wounds were discovered, one large enough to admit three or four fingers quite through into the stomach, another on the left side of the navel, and two more (the fatal wounds) which penetrated between the ribs, on the left side, through the left lobe of the lungs into the left ventricle of the heart. Dreadful blows had been inflicted upon the head and face of the housekeeper, who was also stabbed quite through one of her arms, and terribly stabbed in various other parts of her body, the fatal stab having been directed through her left nostril into the brain.

Thus terminated the existence of those aged, harmless, and inoffensive people, whose struggles to save their lives against this murderous attack must have been very great; and there is hardly a doubt but the person or persons who committed these bloody deeds must have been wounded in the conflict, particularly as the prongs of a hay-fork, which Hall used to keep in his

bed-room, were found near him newly broken from the shaft, and covered with blood; but neither the shaft nor any other instrument which had been used in the murders could be discovered. The various stabs in the bodies seemed to have been inflicted by such a knife as butchers use in slaughtering cattle; and, from some circumstances, it is supposed that when the murders had been completed, the delinquents proceeded to rummage the house in search of money and other valuables, as there were found upon the bed where Hall had slept, a tea-pot containing two 10*l.* notes, and just by the tea-pot one other 10*l.* note, and scattered upon the floor, near the body, seven guineas in gold, and several silver table and tea-spoons; but that, suddenly alarmed by the songs and shouts of some persons who were returning by Hall's house from a harvest supper, between 11 and 12 o'clock in the night of the murders, the barbarians instantly extinguished their light, and decamped without their plunder.

9. *Dublin Castle.*—The Earl Talbot, who embarked at Holyhead, at five o'clock on Wednesday, the 8th instant, on board his Majesty's yacht the *William and Mary*, arrived in this harbour at one o'clock p. m. this day. His lordship, on his arrival in Dublin, was received by the Lord-mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Commons of the city of Dublin. His lordship, attended by a squadron of dragoons, proceeded to the Castle, and the Council having assembled at four o'clock, was introduced in form to his Excellency Earl

Earl Whitworth, who received him sitting under the canopy of state in the Presence Chamber, from whence a procession was made in the usual state to the Council Chamber. The Council sitting, his lordship's commission was read, and the oaths being administered to him, his lordship was invested with the collar of the most illustrious order of St. Patrick, and received the Sword of State from the Earl Whitworth. His Excellency afterwards repaired to the Presence Chamber, and received the compliments of the nobility and other persons of distinction upon his safe arrival, and taking upon him the government of Ireland.

10. This day, at three o'clock, the Earl Whitworth, late Lord-lieutenant of Ireland, left the Castle, in order to embark on board his Majesty's yacht the William and Mary, on his return to England.

His Excellency Earl Talbot, Lord-Lieutenant, and the Earl of Whitworth, went together from the Castle in the state coach, preceded by the leading coaches, in which were the Officers of State, to the South Wall, where the yacht lay. They were escorted by a squadron of dragoons, and attended by a great number of the nobility and persons of distinction, the Lord-Mayor, Sheriffs, several of the Aldermen and principal citizens in their carriages, followed by a concourse of people to the water-side. The streets were lined by the regiments of infantry on Dublin duty. The Earl Whitworth received every demonstration of respect in passing through the

streets, from the people, who testified their regard by repeated wishes for his welfare and safe return to England.

There were more prisoners for trial at the Old Bailey sessions which terminated on Tuesday, than at any preceding session. The number was 476, of which there were—

Convicted of capital offences.....	28
Felonies.....	241
Manslaughter.....	3
Frauds.....	4
Acquitted.....	101
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Total tried.....	377
Remains to be tried at the Admiralty Sessions.....	1
Ordered to be removed for trial at the assizes	4
Remain for trial next sessions.....	7
Discharged for want of prosecution.....	15
Ditto by Proclamation, the Grand Jury having thrown out the bills..	72
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Total.....	476

10. Petersburg.—On the 31st July our Ambassador, Lieutenant-General Yermoloff, was admitted with great solemnity to a first audience of the Sovereign of Persia, Feth Aly Schah, near Sultanie, the Schah's residence, in a magnificent tent. The Ambassador having with him a band of music, strong detachments of Cossacks, and a brilliant suite, was received by a body of 3,000 Persian horsemen of distinction, and by a guard of honour of 200 men.
He

He was then received by the brother-in-law of the Schah, as well as by the late Persian Ambassador in Russia, Muza Khan, who wore the insignia of the Orders of the Lion, and of the Sun, and the Portrait of the Schah.

There was in the tent of the Schah, and in the neighbourhood, a great number of troops and spectators, as well as four Rasaka Shy, or Lictors, in the exercise of their functions, having steel axes, incrustated with gold, and the handles ornamented with precious stones. The Ambassador having made three salutations, the Schah, seated on a magnificent throne, called out to him, "Be welcome," and made him a sign with his hand to come nearer. After several salutations, he presented to the Schah his credentials upon a golden salver. The Schah inquired after the health of the Emperor of Russia, of the capital where he was last, and expressed a wish to have, like the European Sovereigns, an interview with the Emperor of Russia.

The Ambassador was seated in a magnificent arm-chair, but he rose whenever the Schah spoke to him; the conversation lasted a quarter of an hour. Then the Ambassador's suite was presented to the Schah, who received all the persons composing it with the words "Be welcome." Among them was Captain Kotzebue. The Schah was told that this officer had passed three years in a voyage round the world, but that he had, above all, desired to see the great Sovereign of Persia. The Schah took it as a pleasantry, and said, smiling, "Well, then, now you have seen every thing." The

crown of the Schah is formed of the most costly jewels, as well as a large aigrette which he wears in it.

From the shoulders to the girdle he was covered with rich jewels; his dagger was also adorned with them, which looked incredibly brilliant in the sun. Some of the largest stones bear the names of "Sea of Splendour, Mountain of Splendour," &c. At the back of the tent were the 14 sons of the Schah, in the most respectful attitude. When the Ambassador pronounced the name of Feth-Aly-Schah, all the persons present made a profound inclination.

11. *Berlin.*—His Majesty the King has been pleased to address the following invitation to the Consistories, Synods, and Superintendencies of the Monarchy:—

"My illustrious ancestors reposing in God, the Elector John Sigismund, the Elector George William the Great, Elector King Frederic I., and King Frederic William I., as is proved by the history of their reigns and lives, endeavoured with pious zeal to unite the two separate Protestant Churches, the Reformed and the Lutheran, in one Evangelic Christian Church in their dominions. Honouring their memory and their salutary views, I willingly join them, and wish to see a work agreeable to God, which met with insuperable obstacles in the unhappy sectarian spirit of those times, to be brought about in my dominions, to the honour of God and the weal of the Christian Church, under the influence of a better spirit, which disregards what is not essential, and holds fast what is the vital part of Christianity,

tianity, in which both Churches are agreed ; and I desire to see the beginning made upon the approaching secular festival of the Reformation. Such a truly religious union of the two above-mentioned Protestant Churches, who are separated only by external differences, is conformable to the great objects of Christianity ; it answers the first views of the Reformers ; it lies in the spirit of Protestantism ; it promotes religious spirit ; it is salutary to domestic piety ; it will be the source of many useful improvements in churches and schools, which have been often hindered hitherto merely by the difference of religions. To this salutary union, so long desired, and now again so loudly called for, and so often sought in vain, in which the Reformed Church does not go over to the Lutheran, or the latter to the former, but both unite in one new animated Evangelic Christian Church, in the spirit of their Holy Founder, there is no longer any obstacle in the nature of the thing itself, if both parties seriously and honestly desire it in a true Christian spirit ; and if produced by this it will worthily express the gratitude which we owe to Divine Providence for the invaluable blessings of the Reformation, and honour the memory of its great authors in the continuance of their work.

But much as I must wish that the reformed and Lutheran Churches in my dominions may share with me this my well-tried conviction, I have far too much respect for their rights and their liberty to force it upon them, or to order or decide any thing in this affair.

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This union, besides, can have real value only, if neither persuasion nor indifferentism have a part in it, if it proceed from the unbiased liberty of self-conviction, and is not only an union in external form, but has its roots and vivifying service in unity of heart, according to the genuine principles of Scripture.

As I shall myself celebrate in this spirit the approaching secular festival of the Reformation, in the union of the late Reformed and Lutheran congregation at Potsdam, in one Evangelic Christian congregation, and take the holy Sacrament with them, I hope that this my own example will have a beneficial influence on all the Protestant congregations in my country, and that it may be generally followed in spirit and truth. To the wise direction of the Consistories, to the pious zeal of the Clergy and their Synods, I leave the *exterior coinciding form* of the union, convinced that the congregations will readily follow in a true Christian spirit, and that every where, when the attention is directed seriously and sincerely, without any interested secondary views, to what is essential to the great sacred cause itself, the form will be easily found, and the external will naturally result from the internal, simple, dignified, and true. May the promised period be no more remote when under one common Shepherd, all united in one faith, one charity, and one hope, shall form only one flock !

FREDERICK WILLIAM.

Potsdam. Sept. 27, 1817.

To the Consistories, Synods,
and Superintendents.

II

The

The undersigned Minister, charged with the publication of this expression of his Majesty's wishes, does not doubt of the desired and happy success; because as it has been accepted since the 1st of this month by the clergy of this city, of both Evangelic Confessions, united in one Synod, with unanimous joy and grateful respect for his Majesty's sentiments and views therein expressed, it will certainly be received in the same manner by all the Evangelic Clergy and congregations in the kingdom.

Minister of the Interior,

VON SCHUCKMANN.

Berlin, Oct. 8, 1817.

14. *Dundee*.—On Sunday last, a shoal of fishes of the kind called *Finner*, a species of small whale, was observed in our river. It was seen again on Monday morning by some people on the south coast, and by them followed in a fishing-coble. About 8 o'clock it was observed by many from our harbour. The boats drove the shoal before them, towards the entrance of the new harbour; and after tacking about there for a little time, it bent its course along the new east wall. At this time the chase exhibited a scene unique and beautiful. The sea monsters, in number nearly 40, and in part seen above water, ploughed their way majestically along; and about 20 boats full of people, with anxious and eager looks, followed close after, keeping them together, and driving them towards the shore. They were soon hemmed into a corner. A vigorous attack immediately commenced upon the whales. Here might be seen a sturdy labourer, grasping

in his arms the tail of one monster, and cast about by its lashing, but still clinging to his prey: there, a lusty carpenter, after a death-dealing blow, which sunk his adze up to the shaft in the hide of another, struggling manfully to extract it; but fain at last to escape with the loss of his weapon, from the lashing of the dreadful creature's tail: there, a boat, borne away upon the shoulders of a monster, was no uncommon sight: and upon one occasion a sailor lad, by way of securing his right to the property of a fish which he had laid hold of, mounted upon its back, held fast by the fins, and was borne along in singular style, calling out as he went, "I have got this *chap*; I have him fast." Every fish was killed. Their length was from 12 to 21 feet; and they would produce from 1 to 5 cwt. of oil.

Thursday the 16th inst. died at Bow-wood, the seat of the Marquis of Lansdown, Mr. Broad, for nearly forty years steward in the Marquis's family: being out in the park on the preceding day with a party of ladies and gentlemen, he found a dead adder, which he took up in his hand, and opened the mouth to show where the poison of the creature lay; in doing this, however, the subtle matter was communicated to a cut in one of his fingers. On the next morning, Mr. B. was found dead in his bed, with every mark of his having died from the effects of the poison, the arm being much inflamed.

17. *Augsburg*.—There has been published here a new rectification, that appears official, of the rumours relative to the misunderstanding

standing between Russia and the Porte, in regard to which the German journals had furnished some very detailed articles. The following is a correct statement, which contains some very important facts:—

The Ottoman government could not have either occasioned or approved the execution of Czerny Georges, because it took place a few hours after he had entered the Ottoman territory. It is not known what act of madness had engaged this unfortunate man to take the step which cost him his life; he appears to have been betrayed by some of his countrymen. In every case he has brought on his death. Before the Emperor of Russia could have been informed of the catastrophe, and on the first intimation of the rash intention, his Majesty issued a circular order, declaring in case Czerny Georges removed from his asylum, or passed the Russian frontiers, the personal protection granted to him should be withdrawn, and his Russian dignities retracted. When the affair was known at Constantinople, the Russian Ambassador could not have the least doubt about the manner in which the Court viewed the affair: so it is certain that neither Baron Strokonoff, nor the Russian Cabinet had taken the least steps relative to the affair. The account of the sending a courier from Petersburgh with the demand of a categorical declaration, and the menace of an immediate rupture, is not only a vague report, but a premeditated falsehood. The corps of General Benningesen was never called an army

of observation, nor has it received any reinforcement.

On the 18th of October the anniversary of the battle of Leipsic was celebrated with the greatest enthusiasm in some of the northern cities of Germany, as the era of their emancipation from the French yoke, and the commencement of their glory and independence. The German muse was called into the service of patriotism on the occasion, and both the Hamburgh and Bremen papers contain some of her most willing, if not her happiest effusions. Festive meetings and appropriate services of religious thanksgiving distinguished the day. The city of Hamburgh, which had suffered most from French tyranny, and gained most by the victory of Leipsic, seems to have been inspired with proportional joy and gratitude.

Later public intelligence says—The festival of the 18th of October, celebrated by the German students at Wartburg, was very fine. The number of students assembled, particularly from the northern universities, amounted to 500. Early on the morning of the 18th they proceeded to Wartburg, with music playing and colours flying, where a speech was made to them in the hall of the bards. Before this, they sung “Our God is a strong tower;” and after it, “the hymn, “Let us all thank God.” Then they went to dinner, and afterwards returned to the town to attend divine service. There was afterwards a species of tournament; and towards the evening they proceeded with torches to a neighbouring hill,

hill, where they kindled bonfires. On the 19th, most of the students took the sacrament of the Holy Supper. During the whole of this festival it was remarked what a deep impression was made on the noble minds of the youth—an impression never to be effaced.

20. The spring tide, as calculated, was extremely high on many parts of the coast, both on Saturday and Sunday, but more particularly in the afternoon of the latter day. Its natural height on the north-eastern coast was considerably augmented by a strong wind from several points in succession from the westward to the eastward of North, and the effect was a tremendously heavy sea, which broke with raging violence against the cliffs, and over the embankments, uniting, in many places unopposed to its fury, its whitened surge with the very verge of the land. The waters of the Thames and Medway were also much increased from the impulse of the above winds, which, sweeping over the great northern ocean, brings such a body of water, that the narrowness of the straits of Dover, with the head of sea kept up in the channel below by the inclination of the wind to the west, will not permit its efflux; it consequently spreads along the north-east coast, and influences the height of the tide.

20. Another dreadful murder was committed near Wells, in the county of Norfolk, on Saturday week, in open day. The unfortunate victim of this atrocious crime is Mr. Robert Baker, sen., a glover and breeches-maker, resident in the above town, a man

of most respectable character. It appears that Mr. Baker had, on the morning of the day above-mentioned, gone out on foot for the purpose of collecting the amount of some bills due to him by persons in the neighbourhood; and that on his return to Wells, between the hours of three and four in the afternoon, he was robbed, and afterwards murdered in the most barbarous manner, by two or more villains, hitherto undiscovered, within 200 yards from the town, in a place called Market-lane. The deceased was not discovered till about eight o'clock on the Monday morning. A man named Doye, who was looking for his donkey, accidentally observed the body lying by the side of the hedge, and immediately communicated the circumstance to two persons, who were passing through the lane, and who, with Doye, went up to the body. On examination, they discovered, by the dress, that it was Mr. Robert Baker: it was impossible to recognize the features of the deceased, on account of their mangled state. The remains presented a most dreadful spectacle: the back part of the skull was completely beaten in, and the throat cut. Two sticks of singular form, supposed to belong to the murderers, were found near the spot, where, from the appearance of the ground, it is concluded their bloody purpose was effected: one of them was broken in two. The deceased's walking-stick was also found there, covered with clots of blood, brains, and hair. The body seemed to have been dragged some way by the cape of the great coat, which

enve-

enveloped the head: in this state it was seen by some boys on the Sunday; but they, taking it for a drunken man asleep, contented themselves with throwing stones at it, and left it. Bills, offering a reward of 100*l.* for the apprehension of the murderers, and giving a description of two persons strongly suspected, were immediately circulated, and every means used to discover the perpetrators.

22. An important application of steam-vessels has lately been made in Scotland, and it is said with the most complete success. It appears that, since the opening of the Forth and Clyde canal (upwards of 30 years ago), a navigable communication has existed between Glasgow and Leith, the port of Edinburgh; notwithstanding which, by far the greater portion of the trade between these places has been carried on by land carriage, at an expense more than double what it might have been done by water.

This navigable communication consists of a canal, for 29 miles, and a broad river or firth for 26 miles; and it appears, that the obstacle which has prevented the benefit being taken of such apparent advantages, is the extreme difficulty of constructing vessels, which from draught of water and mode of rigging, would answer for the navigation of the canal, and at the same time be able to contend against strong contrary winds in the Firth of Forth.

To obviate this difficulty, a Company in Leith have equipped a powerful steam-vessel, or tracker, possessing extraordinary strength, and completely adapted for en-

countering stormy weather. This vessel, which is most appropriately named the Tug, is meant to track ten other vessels, alternately, which have been peculiarly constructed by the same company, for carrying goods along the canal.

The Tug, which may thus be compared to a team of horses in the water, tracks these vessels between Leith and Grangemouth, the entrance of the canal, along which they are tracked by horses. But the utility of the Tug is not confined to tracking: she has also two commodious cabins, and from combining the two purposes of tracking and conveyance of passengers, she is able to convey the latter with a degree of cheapness, which resembles more the track schuyt of Holland, than any conveyance we have in this country; the passage in the best cabin being, for a distance of 26 miles, two shillings; and in the second, one shilling.

Hurricane in the West Indies.—The following letter on this lamentable occasion was addressed by the Colonial Secretary of St. Lucie to the Governor of Barbadoes:—

“ *St. Lucie, Oct. 23, 1817.*

“ My Lord,—His Excellency Major-General Seymour being unable to address your Lordship, in consequence of the very serious injury he received during the hurricane of the 21st instant (and I am sorry to add very little hopes are entertained of his recovery), of which his Excellency has directed me to give your Lordship the particulars, and earnestly to entreat your Lordship's assistance and support towards ameliorating the situation of the unfortunate inhabitants of this island, not one
of

of whom but has suffered severely thereby.

“ Scarcely a dwelling or negro-house is left standing; the mills and outbuildings either unroofed or razed to the ground; nearly the whole crop of canes torn up by the roots, and the face of the island, which was luxuriant on the 20th, now bears the appearance of an European winter.

“ The town of Castrees is nearly in ruins, and the vessels, about twelve sail, are on shore, not one of which is expected to be saved. The whole of the buildings of Morne Fortunée and Pigeon Island were blown down, with the exception of the magazine and tanks.

“ His Excellency and family were taken from under the ruins of his residence (the Commandant’s quarters) where he remained in the hope that it would have resisted the gale; but he has unfortunately suffered for his imprudence.

“ I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship’s most obedient servant,

“ I. R. BAINES,

“ Colonial Secretary.

“ P. S. Since writing the above, I am sorry to acquaint your Lordship, that fears are entertained that General Seymour cannot pass forty-eight hours.

“ We understand Major Burdett and family are killed.

“ Accounts have at length reached us from Dominica, whence every vessel was driven to sea by the late hurricane, and they had not returned when the Robert mail-boat, that arrived here on Sunday, left that Island. The interior of the country had likewise suffered so materially, that unless

supplied from other settlements, the dread of famine appears to be entertained.

“ Capt. Elliott, of his Majesty’s ship Scamander, was making every exertion with his boats, and those of his Majesty’s ship Childers, to relieve the vessels on shore in Carlisle Bay.”

St. Kitt’s.—Ships lost.

“ At Barbadoes—Crown Prince, Grayhaar; Express, —; in all 18 sail on shore; 5 are got since, chiefly American and island vessels.

“ At St. Lucie—The Lady Jane Ellice.

“ A French frigate, armed en flute, with troops on board, foundered in Fort Royal Bay, Martinique; every soul perished.

“ The Sprightly (mail-boat), Adams, missing; she sailed from Dominica for Barbadoes on the evening of the 20th.

“ Col. Brown, of the 6th West India regiment, left St. Vincent’s about the 18th Oct. for Antigua, and had not arrived on the 12th Nov.”

The Governor of Dominica has issued a proclamation, dated the 29th of October, allowing, in consequence of the hurricane on the 21st, whereby the ground provisions and plantations had been totally destroyed, the importation into that island, for six calendar months, in foreign vessels of all nations and descriptions, of flour, bread, biscuit, rice, beans, pease, oats, corn, corn-meal, live stock, horses, mules, horned cattle, roots and fruits of all kinds, boards, plank, scantling, shingles, staves, heading, and hoops. “ And I do also authorize and permit the exportation, in vessels, importing the said

said articles, or any of them, of sugar and coffee to the value of one-third part of the articles so imported, and of rum and molasses for the remainder. Provided always, that the value of the articles so imported shall be ascertained by the oath of the master or supercargo of the vessel importing the same, or by the purchaser thereof, before the collector or comptroller, before such vessel be allowed to come to an entry; and the value of the cargo to be exported to be ascertained in like manner, before the collector or comptroller be allowed to clear out such vessel."

Extract of a Letter dated St. Pierre, Martinique, Nov. 10.—On the 21st of October, this colony was visited by the most furious hurricane ever witnessed here. The details of this sad disaster would be equally long as painful. The loss of nearly 1,000 lives, 25,000 hogsheads of sugar of the present and next crop, incalculable losses in buildings, animals, and the necessaries of life, have occasioned a general desolation, independently of the great anxiety caused by 9-10ths of the shipping which were in the different ports of the island, being either wrecked, damaged, or missing. St. Lucie and Dominica have equally suffered; the tempest reached also St. Vincent and Grenada. Its ravages extended to Guadaloupe, as well as Porto-Rico and its neighbourhood, though in a less degree. The loss experienced by Martinique alone may be very moderately calculated at 25,000,000 of francs, exclusively of the shipping: the works and buildings of entire parishes were razed to the ground.

It lasted 26 hours, 12 of which with such inconceivable fury, as to produce all these disasters, and to destroy buildings which had withstood all former hurricanes. It will require many years before the colony can recover itself from this heavy calamity. This event has caused the following proclamation to be issued, which opens the ports to all foreign vessels:—

PROCLAMATION.

Pierre René Marie, Comte de Vaugiraud, Vice-admiral, Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of St. Louis, officer of the Legion of Honour, Governor, Lieut.-General of the island of Martinique and its dependencies, and Governor-General of the French Windward West India Islands, &c.; and Louis Francois du Buc, Knight of the Royal and Military Orders of St. Louis, and of the Legion of Honour, Intendant of the said island, &c.

Considering that the sudden and unforeseen disaster which the colony has just experienced, requires that the most prompt and efficacious measures should be adopted for its preservation:

Considering also, that no hesitation should take place between an end so important, and means which only call for partial and temporary sacrifices:

We, by virtue of the powers confided to us by his Majesty, and in consequence of the urgency of the case, have provisionally ordered, and do order as follows:—

Art. 1.—The ports of the colony are open to foreign vessels, not only for the importation of provisions, and other articles enumerated in the arret of Aug. 30, 1784,

1784, but also for wheat and rye-flour, and for other eatables, and for every thing required for agriculture, and for the repairs and daily use of the sugar-works.

All articles commonly comprised under the denomination of dry goods remain excluded, and reserved to the commerce of the mother country.

Art. 2.—Foreign vessels shall in return have the liberty to export colonial produce to the amount of the cargoes they have brought.

Art. 3.—Foreign vessels shall continue to pay the duties of import established by the arret of the 30th of Aug. 1784, upon the articles therein enumerated; and shall pay an additional duty of 3 per cent. on those not enumerated in the said arret.

Art. 4.—Foreign vessels shall pay the export duties established by the arret of the 30th of Aug. 1784.

They shall pay 8 per cent. upon the colonial produce which is permitted to be exported by the present ordinance.

French vessels which may proceed to the United States, for the purpose of bringing back provisions to the colony, shall only pay an export duty of 5 per cent. upon the colonial produce. Their return cargoes shall only be subjected to the duties established in their respect, by the arret of the 30th of Aug. 1784.

Art. 5.—The duties on colonial produce, payable by the seller, shall continue to be levied as at present.

The provisions of the present ordinance shall remain in force during six months from the date

of its being published, unless countermanded by superior authority.

Given at Martinique, under our armorial seals, and countersigned by our secretaries, this 28th of Oct. 1817.

(Signed)

Le Comte de VAUGIRAUD,
Secrétaire, Durand Molard.

Further Particulars.—Letters received from Barbadoes, (via Demerara) of Oct. 27, say little of the injury there sustained, as it was confined to a few of the shipping: but they confirm in many fatal particulars the deplorable intelligence of the loss of lives and ruin of property at St. Lucie. The governor, General Seymour, survived but a short time after he had been dug out from the ruins of his house. Mrs. Seymour and her children were saved, but all the rest of the family perished. Major Burdett, with his wife and child, were among the number of the killed. The barracks were levelled with the earth. Those of the garrison who escaped destruction, owed their safety to an order to evacuate the buildings before they had given way to the tempest; but every negro house on the island was blown into the air. The town was nearly a mass of ruins; the cane crops torn up by the root, and the country laid waste as far as cultivation extended. The secretary to the governor had written a pressing supplication to Lord Combermere for supplies and assistance, on behalf of the destitute inhabitants.

We have the satisfaction to state, that the Antelope, (Admiral Harvey), whose loss was asserted, had arrived safe at St. Kitt's before

fore the 12th ult.; and that all the other men of war on the Lee-ward-Island station had escaped the fury of the storm.

22. From a return made by Lieutenant-general Comte de Gerardin, charged with the office of grand hunter (*grandveneur*) to his Majesty, it appears that, in the 86 departments of the kingdom of France, 2,416 wolves have been destroyed between the 1st of January, 1816, and the 1st of July, 1817. Of these 1,894 were males, and 522 females. In La Vendee 54 were killed, in the Vosges 171, in the Ardennes 119, in the Aude 128, in Aveyron 45, and in La Creuse 94. Out of the 86 departments of France, 61 appear by this list to contain, more or less, considerable numbers of this destructive animal.

24. Dr. Donald M'Askill, of the island of Eigg, was unfortunately drowned off that island, on the 24th ult. He was proceeding from Arisaig to Eigg, in a boat, along with the Rev. Mr. Fraser, minister of the Small Isles, when, by the starting of a plank, the boat instantly sunk, and he and Mr. Fraser, with two men, perished.

25. The Prussian government continues to grant considerable sums towards defraying the expenses incurred by learned men on their travels; and permits them also to draw on the funds of different public establishments, and among others, the Academy of Sciences at Berlin. Professors Reaumer and Vonder Hagen, of Breslau, have made, at the expense of the king, a tour through Germany and Italy, for the purpose of visiting all the principal

libraries and collections; they have both lately returned to Berlin with the results of their researches. Professor Reaumer has made important discoveries relative to the history of Germany in the middle ages, on which he is about to publish an important work. Professor Vonder Hagen has confined his researches chiefly to the manuscripts of the ancient German poets.

Another professor of Breslau, Dr. Schottky, has been employed in making researches in the Imperial Academy of Vienna, and the numerous scientific collections of that capital. Professor Kephallides and Fosther, also of Breslau, are now preparing an account of the interesting tour which they made in 1813 and 1814 in Italy and in Sicily. This important work will appear at Leipsic, in the Easter fair of 1818. M. Germer, Professor of Mineralogy in the Prussian university of Halle, has sent to the press an account of his journey in Dalmatia and Ragusa. It contains very curious details on the present state of those countries, their mineralogy and entomology, and also on the inhabitants.

Professors Becker and Goeschen are travelling in Italy. The former is to collate all the most important manuscripts for his new edition of the Greek classics, and to examine all the ancient inscriptions for a great work on Roman antiquities which the academy of Berlin intends to publish. M. Goeschen is employed to verify the ancient codes, and to make other critical researches on the subject of jurisprudence, which he professes with so much ability in

in the university of Berlin. He has made several important discoveries at Verona, whence he has proceeded to Florence.

Baron Von Sacken, of Berlin, employs a part of his great fortune in literary and scientific voyages. He has already visited the United States of America, and the West Indies. He is now gone to Vienna, to accompany Baron Von Schladen, the new Prussian minister to the Porte, who is to travel to Constantinople by the way of the Carpathian mountains. Baron Von Sacken intends to pass through Asia Minor into Caramania, and afterwards to visit Egypt and the neighbouring countries. He has for his travelling companion William Muller, a young Berlin student, who possesses very considerable philological knowledge, and who is to employ himself in literary researches for the academy of Berlin. Prince Maximilian of Neuwied is to occupy himself during the ensuing winter in drawing up an account of his travels in the Brazils, which he intends to publish in the form of letters.

The following dreadful accidents occurred on Sunday the 20th to two children of a farmer residing at Castledreignog, Cardiganshire:—One of them, a girl about eleven years of age, having used a whip for the purpose of driving away a boar that stood near her, the enraged animal flew at her, and, with his tusks inflicted several deep wounds on her breast before she could be rescued from her perilous situation. While the mother of this poor child was engaged in dressing, in the best manner she was able, her bleeding

wounds, an infant son, not above four years old, took up the whip his sister had just before used, and, in attempting to punish the boar for the injury done her, fell a victim to the fury of the ferocious animal. The boar, before any assistance could be rendered, had torn out the entrails of the child, whose dreadful sufferings and existence terminated together on the following day. The little girl's life is despaired of. The boar was immediately killed.

26. *From the Bristol Mirror.*—It is our painful duty to state, that intelligence reached this city of the loss of the sloop William and Mary (a regular packet between this port and Waterford); and that out of nearly sixty souls on board only nine were saved.

The particulars, as far as we have been able to learn, are, that the William and Mary, Morley, master, sailed from Pill at nine o'clock on Thursday evening last. The night was fine and the wind fair: about eleven o'clock, not far from the Holmes, whilst the mate was at the helm, and the master standing near to him on the deck, the vessel struck on a rock, which our informant calls the Willeys. The passengers, who had retired to rest, were quickly alarmed, and many of them proceeded on deck, as yet unacquainted with the real extent of their danger. This state of suspense, however, did not last long; for in fifteen minutes afterwards, it was found that the vessel was in a sinking state. The scene that immediately followed was dreadful in the extreme. The boat (a very small one) was soon filled, chiefly by the

the crew, and put off to the Welsh shore, and in a few minutes afterwards the vessel sunk.

Her top-mast remained some feet above the water, to which the crew adhered until the boat returned. Our informant saved himself by swimming, and was actually two hours and a half in the water, when he was taken into the boat. He witnessed the heart-rending scene which took place on the sinking of the vessel. A Mr. Barron, his mother, and four sisters, elegant and accomplished women, who had their man-servant and a carriage on board, were among the passengers; the cries of the young ladies were most distressing. They all perished!—they sunk, entwined in each other's arms!

An officer of the ——— regiment was saved, but his lady perished. All the females on board, 22 in number, and two children, met a watery grave. Eight of the ladies were cabin-passengers. The master, Mr. Morley, was drowned; he has left a wife (now pregnant) and three children. The rest of the crew were saved.

The gentleman from whom we have procured these hasty particulars, states, that before he was taken up by the boat, he saw one unfortunate individual (whom he supposes to have been Mr. Barron, mentioned above) near him in the water. He endeavoured to cheer him; he, however, had only strength left to answer, in a faint voice, "I can go no farther!" and sunk, to rise no more.

Our informant thinks there were about 15 cabin passengers, and about 40 in the steerage. In

the number (nine) known to be saved, the crew are included.

Since writing the above we have learnt, that the name of the officer saved (and whose lady is among the sufferers) is Lieut. Theballier, of the 35th. Among those who perished we have heard the names of Messrs. Gill, Cliff, and Snow. A colonel, whose regiment is now in the East Indies, was also drowned. Mr. R. Shortes, of this city, and Lieut. Theballier, are the only passengers saved.

The few who escaped landed about eight miles from Cardiff. They applied for admittance at a respectable house in the neighbourhood, but were refused! They then proceeded to a farm-house, where they procured a cart to convey them to Cardiff. They were in a most exhausted state. A cottager and his wife gave up their only bed to one or two who were unable to proceed to Cardiff.

Shortly before the sloop went down, a poor soldier took his wife and child to the bow of the vessel, where they sat down, and calmly awaited their fate. As the vessel went down they clung to each other, and in that state floated a moment on the water, and then sunk, clasped in each other's arms.

We have not been able to ascertain exactly where the melancholy accident happened. The rocks are called the Willeys, or the Wolverers, about three miles N. W. of the Holmes light-house.

Ukase, addressed to the Legislative Synod at Moscow, by Alexander, Emperor of Russia.

Moscow, Oct. 27.

During my late travels through
the

the provinces, I was obliged, to my no small regret, to listen to speeches pronounced by certain of the clergy in different parts, which contained unbecoming praises of me; praises which can only be ascribed unto God: and as I am convinced, in the depth of my heart, of the Christian truth, that every blessing floweth unto us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ alone, and that every man, be he whom he may, without Christ is full only of evil; therefore, to ascribe unto me the glory of deeds in which the hand of God hath been so evidently manifested before the whole world, is to give unto men that glory which belongeth unto Almighty God alone. I account it my duty, therefore, to forbid all such unbecoming expressions of praise, and recommend to the holy synod to give instructions to all the diocesan bishops, that they themselves, and the clergy under them, may, on similar occasions, in future, refrain from all such expressions of praise, so disagreeable to my ears; and that they may render unto the Lord of hosts alone thanksgivings for the blessings bestowed upon us, and pray for the outpouring of his grace upon all of us; conforming themselves in this matter to the words of sacred writ, which require us to render to the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the only wise God, honour and glory for ever and ever.

(Signed) ALEXANDER.

27. The inhabitants of Carnarvon, and other parishioners of Llanbeblig, being given to understand, that the Rev. Mr. Trevor, Deacon, was nominated by the Bishop of

Chester to succeed the late vicar, (the Rev. Mr. Jones) and that he was totally unacquainted with the Welsh language, they unanimously resolved to enter a caveat against any person being inducted to the vicarage of Llanbeblig labouring under such disqualifications.

NOVEMBER.

1. *Philadelphia*. — We noticed the detention of the brig *Ellen* a few days ago, on suspicion of infringement of neutrality. On Thursday last, the British officers, 11 in number, who had taken passage in her, and who have subsequently avowed their intention of aiding the Patriot cause, were brought by writ of habeas corpus before the United States District Court; eminent counsel appeared in their behalf; and yesterday the court decided that they be fully committed for trial.

3. Her Majesty, accompanied by the Princess Elizabeth, arrived at Bath, where she took up her lodgings at a spacious house in Sydney-place, and was saluted with a general illumination. The purpose of her Majesty's visit is to make trial of the salutary waters of the place.

4. *Stockholm*. — Of the new towns now building, namely, Carl Johannstadt, in North Bothnia, on the heights of Tornea, which was ceded in 1809 to Russia; Oscarsstadt, in Wermeland, near the frontiers of Norway; and Borgholm, in the island of Oeland; the latter will become the seat of a great general workhouse, and house of correction, in the old royal palace, which lies close to it;

it; for which purpose Capt. Adlersparre patriotically gives up his lease of the palace and lands belonging to it, which has still 16 years to run, and has been honoured by a letter of thanks from his Majesty, and the appointment to the first place of governor in it.

5. The Halifax papers, just received, state the melancholy fact, that the ship *Lantaro*, Captain Benjamin Mathews, bound from Greenock for Charleston, with a crew of 14 persons, including the captain, four cabin passengers, and 29 men, women, and children, in the steerage, foundered at sea on the 10th Sept. Of these, 27 perished. The others, including the captain, were picked up by the *Jessie*, bound from Dumfries to St. Andrew's, and carried into Halifax. Among the sufferers were 13 relatives of Mr. Black, clerk in a commercial-house in Halifax.

On November 6, the hopes of this nation, which so long rested upon the happy union between the daughter of the Prince Regent, and the Prince Leopold of Coburg, were fatally blasted by Her Royal Highness's death at a short period after her delivery.

The Princess Charlotte, after a labour described rather as lingering than severe, was brought to bed, on the evening of November 5, of a still-born male child; and the first reports gave a favourable account of her situation. This was, however, a very short interval of hope; for the intelligence conveyed by the London Gazette Extraordinary on the 6th, related, that after the event of her delivery at nine o'clock on the night of the 5th, she was seized with great

difficulty of breathing, restlessness, and exhaustion, which alarming symptoms increased till half-past two in the morning, when, to the great grief of her family, she expired.

The first token of sorrow was exhibited in the metropolis, where the Lord Mayor, having summoned a court of aldermen, it was unanimously agreed that the fitting-up of Guildhall for the approaching ceremony of Lord Mayor's day, should be suspended, and the preparations for the occasion should be discontinued. Public notice was also given for the abolition of shows and rejoicings on that day.

On the 7th, the Deputy Earl Marshal issued orders in the Prince Regent's name, directing a general mourning for the late Princess. Her Majesty, with the Princess Elizabeth, left Bath early on the 8th, on their return to Windsor.

The sufferings of Prince Leopold under his most severe loss are described as extremely affecting. A bulletin was for some time published by his physician, denoting his daily state of health.

His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, was thrown, by the first intelligence, into a paroxysm, which rendered it necessary to bleed him twice, besides cupping. By these operations he obtained bodily relief, but the anguish of his mind can only be judged of by the parent of a sole and beloved child.

The progress of this disastrous information throughout the kingdom was attended with all the feelings of regret, commiseration, and disappointment. Every one seemed

seemed to feel, that the dearest hopes of the nation were wounded in the individual whose loss was deplored ; and the state of the royal family, now again reduced to a single progeny, became the anxious speculation of many thoughtful minds.

The London papers were crowded with the expressions of sorrow, collected from their correspondents in all parts of the two islands ; and

there is every reason to believe that scarcely any death of members of the Royal Family has been more sincerely lamented.

It was a considerable time before preparations could be made for Her Royal Highness's funeral, which at length took place on the 19th, at the royal vault in Windsor, according to the following solemnity as published in the London Gazette.

November 22.

On Tuesday evening the 18th instant, at half-past 5 o'clock, the remains of her late Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte Augusta, and of the Royal infant, were privately conveyed from Claremont to Windsor, escorted by a detachment of the 10th, or Prince Regent's own, Royal Hussars, which was relieved at Egham by a party of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), in the following order :—

A mourning coach, drawn by six horses, in which were the remains of the Royal Infant and the Urn, attended by Colonel Addenbrooke, Equerry to her late Royal Highness, and Sir Robert Gardiner, K.C.B. Aide-de-Camp and Equerry to the Prince Leopold.

The HEARSE, drawn by eight horses.

A mourning coach, drawn by six horses, conveying His Serene Highness the Prince Leopold, attended by Baron de Hardenbroock, Aide-de-Camp and Equerry, and Dr. Stockman, Physician to His Serene Highness.

A mourning coach, drawn by four horses, conveying Lady John Thynne, one of the Ladies of the Bedchamber to Her late Royal Highness ; Mrs. Campbell, one of the Women of the Bedchamber to Her late Royal Highness ; and Lady Gardiner.

A mourning coach, drawn by four horses, conveying Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Cronberg, Attendants on Her late Royal Highness, and Mrs. Phillips, Housekeeper.

A mourning coach, drawn by four horses, conveying Dr. Short, Chaplain to His Serene Highness, His Majesty's Gentleman Usher, and two officers of the Lord Chamberlain's Department.

Upon the arrival of the procession at Windsor, the first coach, conveying the remains of the Royal Infant and the Urn, proceeded direct to St. George's chapel, where the same were received by the Dean of Windsor and T. B. Mash, Esq. of the Lord Chamberlain's department, and deposited in the royal vault : the coffin of the royal infant being borne from the coach to the vault by four, and the urn by two, Yeomen of the Guard. The hearse proceeded into the front court of the

the lower lodge, and the body was placed under a canopy in the apartment prepared for its reception.

His Serene Highness was received and conducted to his apartments by Sir George Nayler, Knight, and Hale Young Wortham, Esq. the King's Gentleman Usher in Waiting, attended by the officers of the Lord Chamberlain.

On Wednesday evening the 19th instant, soon after 8 o'clock, the remains of Her late Royal Highness were removed from the Lower Lodge to St. George's chapel, in the following order:—

Servants and Grooms of Her late Royal Highness and of His Serene Highness, on foot, in deep mourning.

Servants and Grooms of the Royal Family, the Prince Regent, and their Majesties, on foot, in full state liveries, with crape hat-bands, and black gloves, four and four, bearing flambeaux.

The full band of the Royal Horse Guards Blue.

The HEARSE,

Drawn by eight of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent's black horses, fully caparisoned, each horse attended by a groom in full state livery.

His Majesty's body carriage,

Drawn by a full set of His Majesty's horses, each horse attended by a groom in full state livery,

conveying

His Serene Highness the Prince Leopold,
Chief Mourner,

and

Their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of York and Clarence,
Supporters to the Chief Mourner.

The carriages of the Prince Regent, the Royal Family, and the Prince Leopold, each drawn by six horses, closed the procession.

The whole procession from the Lower Lodge to St. George's Chapel was flanked by the military, every fourth man bearing a flambeau.

Upon arrival at St. George's Chapel, the servants, grooms, and band, filed off without the south door.

At the entrance the Dean and Canons, attended by the choir, received the body; and the procession, (which had been formed under the direction of Sir George Nayler, Knt. York Herald, executing this part of the duty on behalf of Garter), being flanked by the Foot Guards, every fourth man bearing a flambeau, moved down the south aisle, and up the nave, in the following order:—

Poor Knights of Windsor.

Pages of their Royal Highnesses the Princesses Augusta, Elizabeth,
and Sophia,

Mr. Harding,

Mr. Moore,

Mr. Gollop.

Pages

Guard of the Royal Horse Guards Blue.

Guard of the Royal Horse Guards Blue.

Pages of the Prince Leopold,		
Mr. Ammershuber,	Mr. Phillips,	
Mr. Lyons,	Mr. Fairbairn,	Mr. Hewett,
Mr. Heock,	Mr. Bagster,	
Mr. James Sims,	Mr. Thomas Poole,	
Mr. Henry Forschutz,	Mr. Paul Mechin.	
Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester,		
Mr. Hart,	Mr. J. Moss,	
Mr. J. Venables.		
Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge,		
Mr. Urlin,	Mr. Sams,	
Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex,		
Mr. Reblourne,	Mr. Blackman.	
Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland,		
Mr. Salisbury,	Mr. Gaspar Perelion,	
Mr. J. Ball,	Mr. Paulet.	
Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence,		
Mr. Redwood,	Mr. Jemmett,	
Mr. Hutt,	Mr. Robinson.	
Pages of His Royal Highness the Duke of York,		
Mr. Lumley,	Mr. Silvester,	Mr. Gibbon,
Mr. Worley,	Mr. Kendal,	Mr. Frantz,
Mr. Goodes,	Mr. Shell,	Mr. Patte.
Pages of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, viz.		
Pages of the Back Stairs,		
Samuel Wharton,		
Charles Beckt,	Benjamin Lucas.	
Pages of the Presence,		
Joseph Ince,	Thomas Messenger,	
John Dobell,	George Wedgberrow.	
Pages of the Bed-Chamber,		
Jenkins Stradling,	Joseph Norden,	
Robert Jenkins,	Samuel Bowtell,	
John Wood,	Charles Downes, Esqrs.	
Pages of Her Majesty,		
Christopher Papendick,	H. F. Grobecker,	
William Duncan,	Daniel Robinson, Esqrs.	
Pages of His Majesty,		
Joseph Bott,	John Clarke,	
Anthony Healey,	William Baker,	
John Bott,	Henry Cooper,	W. Snart, Esqrs.
Solicitor to Her late Royal Highness,		
John Smallpiece, Gent.		
Apothecaries of Her late Royal Highness,		
Mr. Richard Walker,	Mr. E. Brande.	
Surgeons of Her late Royal Highness,		
Mr. Neville,	Mr. Robert Keate.	

Rector of the Parish of Esher,
Rev. J. Dagle.

Sergeant Surgeons to the King,
Sir David Dundas, Bart. Sir Everard Home, Bart.

Physician to the Prince Leopold,
Christian Stockmar, M.D.

Physicians who attended Her late Royal Highness,
John Sims, M.D. Matthew Baillie, M.D.

Sir Richard Croft, Bart. M.D.

Chaplains to Her Royal Highness, and to His Serene Highness
the Prince Leopold,

The Rev. Alex. Starkey, The Rev. William Kuper,
The Rev. J. Hammond, The Rev. Dr. Short.

Equerry to Her late Royal Highness,

Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable Henry Percy.

Equerries to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester,
Edmund Currey, Esq. Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel G. Higgins.

Equerries to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge,
Capt. White, Lieut.-Col. Count Linsingen.

Equerry to His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex,
H. F. Stephenson, Esq.

Equerries to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland,
Captain Jones,

Major Frederick Poten, Colonel Charles Wade Thornton.

Equerries to His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent,
Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Carr, K. C. B.

Major Gen. James Moore, Lieut.-Gen. Fred. Augustus Wetherall.

Equerries to His Royal Highness the Duke of York,
Lieut.-Col. the Hon. James Stanhope, Lieut.-Col. Delancy Barclay.

Equerries to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent,
Colonel Seymour, Major-General Sir R. Hussey Vivian, K. C. B.

Sir William Congreve, Bart.

Clerk Marshal and First Equerry,

Lieutenant-General Francis Thomas Hammond.

Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief,

Major-General Sir Henry Torrens, K. C. B.

Quarter-Master-General, Adjutant-General,

Sir J. Willoughby Gordon, K. C. B. Sir Harry Calvert, G. C. B.

Officers of the Duchy of Cornwall, viz.

Solicitor-General, Attorney-General,

William Harrison, Esq. William Draper Best, Esq.

Lord Warden of the Stannaries,

The Earl of Yarmouth.

Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal,

John Leach, Esq.

Chamberlain to the Great Steward of Scotland,

Admiral Lord Viscount Keith, G. C. B.

Grooms of the Bedchamber to the Prince Regent,
 Admiral Sir George Campbell, Lieut.-Gen. the Hon. Sir Edward
 K. C. B. Paget, G. C. B.
 Lieut. Gen. Sir T. Hilgrove General Sir William Keppel,
 Turner, Knt. G. C. B.
 General Sir John Cradock, Lieut.-General the Hon. Edward
 G. C. B. Finch.

Pursuivants of Arms.

Portcullis,
 G. F. Beltz, Esq.
 Rouge Dragon, Bluemantle,
 C. G. Young, Esq. F. Martin, Gent.
 Treasurer of the Prince Regent's Household,
 Lord Charles Bentinck.

Heralds of Arms,

Somerset, Richmond,
 J. Cathrow, Esq. J. Hawker, Esq.
 Lancaster, Chester,
 E. Lodge, Esq. G. M. Leake, Esq.
 Privy Purse and Private Secretary to the Prince Regent,
 The Right Honourable Sir Benjamin Bloomfield.

Lords of the Prince Regent's Bedchamber,

The Right Hon. Lord Amherst, The Right Hon. Lord Graves,
 The Earl Delawarr, Lord Viscount Lake,
 Lord James Murray, Lord Viscount Melbourne,
 The Marquess of Headfort, Lord Charles Spencer.

E. Townsend, Esq. Windsor Herald, acting for
 Norroy, King of Arms.

The Right Hon. Lord Ellenborough. The Right Hon. Lord Grenville.
 The Lord Bishop of Exeter. The Lord Bp. of Salisbury, C. G.

The Lord Bishop of London.

The Minister of State of Hanover, and the Minister of Saxony,
 Count Munster, Baron de Just.

The Deputy Earl Marshal,
 Lord Henry T. Howard Molyneux Howard.

The Earl of Chichester.

The Marquess Cornwallis, The Marquess of Salisbury, K. G.
 His Majesty's Ministers, viz.

The Right Hon. Charles Bathurst, The Rt. Hon. W. Wellesley Pole.
 The Right Hon. George Canning. The Right Hon. N. Vansittart.
 Lord Viscount Sidmouth. Lord Viscount Melville.

Lord Viscount Castlereagh, K. G. The Earl of Mulgrave.
 The Earl of Liverpool, K. G. The Earl Bathurst, K. G.

The Earl of Westmorland, K. G. The Earl of Harrowby,
 Lord Privy Seal, Lord President of the Council.

The Right Honourable Lord Eldon,
 Lord High Chancellor.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Choir of Windsor.

Canons of Windsor.

Dean of Windsor.

Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard,

The Earl of Macclesfield.

The Groom of the Stole, The Marquess of Winchester.	{	The Lord Steward of His Majesty's Household, The Marquess of Chol- mondeley.	{	The King's Master of the Horse, The Duke of Mon- trose, K. B.
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Ralph Bigland, Esq. Norroy, acting for
Clarenceux King of Arms.

Supporter, H. Y. Wortham, Esq. one of his Majesty's Gen- tlemen Ushers.	{	The Coronet of her late Royal Highness borne upon a black velvet cushion, by Col. Adden- brooke, Equerry to Her late Royal Highness.	{	Supporter, R. Chester, Esq. Gentleman Usher of the Privy Chamber.
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Supporter, W. Woods, Esq.	{	Garter Principal King of Arms, Sir Isaac Heard, Knt. bearing his sceptre.	{	Supporter, J. Pulman, Esq.
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Secretary to the Lord Chamberlain, J. Calvert, Esq.	{	The Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's Household, The M. of Hertford, K. G.	{	The Vice Cham- berlain, Viscount Jocelyn.
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Supporter of the
pall, the Right
Honourable Lady
Ellenborough.

THE BODY,
Covered with a black velvet
pall, adorned with eight
escocheons of her late
Royal Highness's arms, the
coffin carried by eight
Yeomen of the Guard,
under a canopy of black
velvet, borne by eight Gen-
tlemen Ushers.

Supporter of the
pall, the Right
Honourable Lady
Arden.

Supporter of the
pall, the Right
Honourable Lady
Grenville.

Supporter of the
pall, the Right
Honourable Lady
Boston.

H. R. Highness
The D. of CLARENCE,
in a long black
cloak, his train
borne by Rear Ad-
miral the Hon. Sir
Henry Blackwood,
Bart. and the Hon.
Courtenay Boyle.

THE
CHIEF MOURNER, His Serene Highness
The PRINCE LEOPOLD,
in a long black cloak,
his train borne by Ba-
ron de Hardenbrock,
and Lieutenant-Colonel
Sir Robert Gardiner,
K.C.B. Aides-de-Camp
and Equerries to his
Serene Highness.

H. R. Highness
The DUKE of YORK,
in a long black cloak,
his train borne by
Lieutenant-Colonel
Armstrong, & Lieut.-
Colonel Cooke, Aides-
de-Camp to His Roy-
al Highness.

H. R. H. The DUKE of SUSSEX, in a long black cloak. His train borne by Major-General Sir George Townshend Walker, G. C. B. Groom of the Bedchamber, and Major Perkins Magra, Equerry to His Royal Highness.

H. R. H. The D. of CUMBERLAND, in a long black cloak. His train borne by General Vyse, Comptroller of the Household, and Lieutenant General Henry Wynyard, Groom of the Bedchamber of His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness the DUKE of GLOUCESTER, in a long black cloak. His train borne by Colonel Dalton, and Lieut.-Col. Cotton, Grooms of the Bedchamber of his Royal Highness.

Lady Gardiner. Lady John Thynne, one of the Ladies of the Bedchamber of her late Royal Highness.

Women of the Bedchamber of Her late Royal Highness,
Miss Charlotte Cotes, Mrs. Campbell.

His Majesty's Establishment at Windsor, viz.
Groom of the Stole,
The Earl of Winchelsea, K. G.
Master of the Robes, Vice-Chamberlain,
The Right Hon. Lord Vernon. Lord John Thynne.
Lords of the Bedchamber,
The Right Hon. Lord Rivers, The Right Hon. Lord Somerville,
The Right Hon. Lord Arden, The Right Hon. Lord St. Helen's.
Grooms of the Bedchamber,
Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir A. K. Legge, K. C. B. The Hon. Robert Fulk Greville,
Lieut.-Gen. Sir Henry F. Campbell, K. C. B. Vice-Admiral Sir Harry Neale,
Bart. K. C. B.

Clerk Marshal and First Equerry,
General Robert Manners.
Equerries,
General George Garth, General Francis Edward Gwynne,
Lieut.-Gen. Sir B. Spencer, G. C. B. Lieut.-Gen. W. Cartwright,
Lieut.-Gen. William Wynyard.
Master of the Household,
Benjamin Charles Stephenson, Esq.
Her Majesty's Establishment at Windsor, viz.
Master of the Horse,
Earl Harcourt.
Treasurer of the Household, Vice-Chamberlain,
Major-General Herbert Taylor. Edward Disbrowe, Esq.
Equerries,
Major-Gen. Hon. Sir Ed. Stopford, K. C. B. Col. Hon. A. P. Upton.
Ladies of Her Majesty's Bedchamber,
The Countess of Ilchester. The Countess of Macclesfield,
Viscountess Melville.
Women of her Majesty's Bedchamber,
The Hon. Mrs. A. M. Egerton, The Right Hon. Lady Radstock,
The Hon. Mrs. Courtenay Boyle.

Gentlemen Ushers,

George N. Vincent, Esq. Charles Rooke, Esq. Thomas Gore, Esq.

Ladies of the Bedchamber of their Royal Highnesses the Princesses,
Lady Mary Powlett, Lady Mary Taylor, Lady Elizabeth Montagu.

Women of the Bedchamber of their Royal Highnesses the Princesses,
Miss Disbrowe, Lady Campbell, Miss Vyse.

Attendants on Her late Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte,
Mrs. Cronberg, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Phillips.

Attendants on Her Majesty and the Princesses.

Upon entering the choir, the body was placed on a platform, and the coronet and cushion laid upon the coffin. The Chief Mourner sat on a chair placed for his Serene Highness at the head of the corpse, and their Royal Highnesses, his supporters, on chairs on either side. The Supporters of the pall sat in their places near the body; and the Lord Chamberlain of his Majesty's household on a chair at the feet of the corpse. The Royal Dukes, and the Nobility, Knights of the Garter, occupied their respective stalls; and the Ministers of State, Officers of the Household, and others of the procession, were conducted to their respective places.

The part of the service before the interment, and the anthem, being performed, the body was deposited in the Royal Vault. The office of burial being concluded, after a short pause, Sir Isaac Heard, Knt. Garter Principal King of Arms, proclaimed the style of Her late Royal Highness as follows:

“ Thus it has pleased Almighty God to take out of this transitory life unto his Divine mercy, the late most illustrious Princess CHARLOTTE AUGUSTA, Daughter of His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, Regent of this United Kingdom; Consort of His Serene High-

ness Leopold George Frederick, Duke of Saxe, Margrave of Misnia, Landgrave of Thuringia, Prince of Cobourg of Saalfeld; and granddaughter of His Most Excellent Majesty George the Third, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, whom God bless and preserve with long life, health, and honour, and all worldly happiness.”

After which, His Serene Highness the chiefmourner, the Princes of the Blood Royal, the great Officers, Nobility, and others who had composed the procession, retired; having witnessed that every part of this most mournful and afflicting ceremony had been conducted with great regularity, decorum, and solemnity.

S. Rome.—Lucien Buonaparte and his family returned to Rome suddenly this morning from Rufinella, his country-seat, near Frescati. The following was the occasion of this unexpected movement:—Yesterday, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Monseignor Cuneo, auditor of Ruota, a connexion of the Buonaparte family, who was on a visit to Lucien at Rufinella, took a walk in the direction of Tusculum, to inspect the excavations going on there, when on a sudden he was seized, attacked,

tacked, and wounded by several ruffians. They consulted among themselves whether they should put him to death, or carry him off, but in the mean time they kept him in custody. At half an hour after sunset, when Lucien's family were about to sit down to dinner, Monseignor Cuneo was missing, and servants with lighted torches were sent in search of him. They went towards Tusculum, and called loudly his name. In the meantime the robbers rushed towards the house, and seized Lucien's Secretary, M. Chatillon, together with two servants (mistaking probably the Secretary for the master), and carried him off. Monseignor Cuneo had the good fortune to make his escape during the tumult. A report has spread this morning, that the noted robber Barbone, of Velletri, perpetrated this violence with twenty-seven of his banditti; but from the declarations of some of Lucien's people, there were only six men engaged in it, who were dressed in the garb of boors, without shoes, and wearing only a species of sandal tied on their feet, (called *ciovie*,) like the poorest of the people.

Horrid Murders at Godalming.—Early on Tuesday morning the 11th, a man who had ordered some shoes to be made at Mr. Channel's, shoemaker, at Godalming, called for the purpose of ascertaining if they were done. On opening the door, the first object that caught his eye, was the body of Mr. Channel's housekeeper stretched on the floor, with her throat cut in a shocking manner. He was terrified at the sight, and called in some of the neighbours: they found the floor

covered with blood, and the old woman quite dead and cold. They proceeded up stairs, and were horror-struck at the sight of Mr. Channel lying on the ground, with his head nearly severed from the body. His body was bruised in various parts, as if very recently done, from which it may be inferred that he must have had a severe struggle with the murderers: he was quite cold, which circumstance led the parties to suppose that the diabolical attack and inhuman murders were committed on the preceding night. Upon a further examination of the body of the housekeeper, it was found that her skull was fractured; a hammer that was found on the ground, which Mr. Channel used in his business, appeared to have been the instrument with which the blow was given, as the face of it exactly corresponded with the mark upon the skull. Immediate information was given to the Magistrates in the neighbourhood of the dreadful transaction, and they with great promptness caused an immediate investigation for the purpose of discovering the perpetrator or perpetrators of the murders. Lord Middleton, who is a Magistrate for the county, was indefatigable in his exertions to acquire information. He summoned every person whose evidence could afford the least clue to the discovery of the offenders. The son of Mr. Channel, who is married and lived at some distance from his father, was apprehended on suspicion of being concerned, and underwent an examination; when it appeared by the evidence, that on Monday night he was drinking at a public-house a short distance from his father's, and that

that between 9 and 10 o'clock he left the public-house for a short time, and returned, and remained there drinking a considerable time. He solemnly denies all knowledge of the affair, and no other evidence has transpired to implicate him than the circumstance of his being absent from the public-house, as above stated, on the evening when the murders are supposed to have been committed. It appeared, that his habits of living have been rather dissolute, and occasioned great uneasiness to his parent. The deceased was well known to possess considerable property, and that is supposed to have been the object of those who committed the murder; but whether any property has been taken from the house, has not yet been ascertained. The prisoner was remanded.

Leeds Mercury of Nov. 15:—In our last paper we stated, that on Monday, the 3d inst., four persons were found dead in a poor cottage, at a place called Deanhouse, in the parish of Stainland; that three weeks before they had lost a daughter, who had died of a malignant fever, in consequence of which the neighbours had been afraid to visit them; and that the overseer of Deanhead, in the neighbourhood of Halifax, to which place this unfortunate family belonged, had neglected to afford them either relief or assistance, and that it was generally believed that they all perished of famine and disease. Since that time we have received another letter from our correspondent, in answer to certain inquiries we addressed to him, in which the following further particulars, at the perusal of which the blood curdles in our

veins, are communicated:—When Joseph Tweed, the head of the family, was found, says our correspondent, “he was laid upon his bed in a miserable chamber, with an infant child two years old, who, like himself, was a lifeless corpse, clasped in his arms. His wife lay dead in the lower room upon the hearth, having divested herself of every article of clothing, with one of her grand-children, who was still alive, stretched upon her body. The daughter of these wretched parents, who was 12 years of age, roused probably from the stupor into which want and sickness had plunged her by the dying groans of her mother, appears to have attempted to make her way down stairs; but her enfeebled limbs refusing to perform their office, she had fallen, and when found, her corpse was laid stretched upon the stairs with her head downwards, and one of her feet locked against the stairs and the wall. Two days after this horrible discovery, four coffins, provided by the overseer, were sent to the house, and the bodies of the deceased being placed in them, they were put into a hearse and cart, and conveyed to Deanhead chapel, where they were interred without any inquest being held over them, and without any investigation whatever having taken place into the circumstances of their death.” We have felt it to be our duty to lay these heart-rending facts before the public, and we now call upon the magistracy and the coroner of the district to discharge theirs.

18. *Letter from Stockholm*—A discharged officer of a good family, of the name of Drake, has ex-
cited

cited general indignation by a very wicked action :—Having been employed to superintend the workmen who were repairing the Ritterholms Church, which is used only for the interment of the Royal family, and of the Knights of the Seraphim, as well as to preserve the trophies of Swedish valour, he broke into what is called the Caroline vault, disturbed the ashes of our great King Charles X., and of a Duchess of Holstein, took from the former the crown, sword-hilt, and sceptre, and from the latter a diadem and necklace, all of gold, and in part richly set, but has betrayed himself by his boasting. He had even had a waistcoat made out of the velvet on one of the coffins, and plundered many other monuments in the church. But as there was found in his pocket, when he was arrested, an exact list of the stolen articles, and an account of what had been done with them, the whole have been recovered.

Destructive Fire in Newfoundland.—Painful and difficult is the task which devolves upon us of recording the truly distressing fire with which this ill-fated town was again visited on Friday night, the 7th instant. The flames were first discovered about half-past ten o'clock, issuing from an uninhabited house about forty yards from the *Royal Gazette* office, in front of Mr. William B. Thomas's dwelling, and in ten minutes communicated to the surrounding buildings : by this time the inhabitants had assembled, but the engines, with their united efforts, seemed of little use in checking this all-devouring element, which now began to assume an appear-

ance that struck every beholder with terror and dismay. In the centre of the town, between two streets not exceeding 20 feet in width, all exertion was unavailing to stem the current of conflagration : the flames spread in every direction with the rapidity of lightning, until about six o'clock on Saturday morning, when the exertions of the more respectable part of the community, aided by the army and navy, succeeded in arresting its progress at the King's Wharf. To give an adequate description of the awful, we had almost said terrible grandeur of the scene, we confess our inability. The glaring splendour of the flames dissipated the darkness of the night, and discovered the misery in which we were placed. Immense volumes of smoke rising majestically above the buildings, at once obscured the dazzling blaze of light, and reflected it back again on the earth. When the morning dawned, such a scene of desolation presented itself as perhaps very few of the spectators ever before witnessed, and such as we sincerely hope they never may behold again : a space of ground extending nearly a quarter of a mile in length, and three hundred yards in breadth, was cleared of the houses which stood thereon. From the Dissenting Meeting house to the church-yard, on the west side ; all the buildings from the Court-house to the north-east boundary of Crawford's premises (both inclusive) on the east side of Duckworth-street ; from the corner of Church-hill to W. Findlay's on the upper side, and from J. and R. Brine's shop to the King's wharf on the lower side of Water-street,

street, including the stores and wharfs, were reduced to ashes, and with them the greater part of a very large stock of provisions with which they were stored.

What rendered the scene the more truly distressing is, that most of those who suffered so severely in the fire of the 11th of February, 1816, are again involved in the distress which we now attempt to describe: in that calamity, many respectable individuals lost their all, and are again reduced to a similar situation, without shelter or covering, at this advanced season of the year. Winter is approaching—a long, dreary, Newfoundland winter—and the prospects before us are gloomy in the extreme: but we will not distress our readers by dwelling longer on this melancholy topic. We do, however, most sincerely hope that efficient measures will be speedily devised, and promptly executed, to save us from a repetition of the scenes of last winter.

So far as we have been able to ascertain, 13 mercantile establishments, and among them the extensive concerns of Hart, Robinson, and Co.; Hunters and Co.; Peter Henderson (late James Macbraire and Co.); Bulleys, Job, and Cross; Parker, Creever, and Co.; Wm. B. Thomas; Attwood and Haynes; Peter le Mesurier, and at least 135 dwelling houses, occupied by not less than 1,100 persons, have been consumed; and it is calculated that the amount of property destroyed cannot be less than from 4 to 500,000*l*.

To those who were not spectators, we despair of giving any thing like an accurate conception. We have not had a fire, but a conflagration!—a dreadful, and, considering our peculiarly distressing circumstances, we should scarcely be wrong in adding, an unheard-of conflagration. In consequence of a Proclamation issued by his Excellency the Governor, all vessels and boats are prevented from leaving this port till the quantity of provisions in the town be ascertained: this, we are in hopes, will have the good effect of securing to the community whatever may be yet remaining; but that itself, with the addition of what is expected, will not, we apprehend, be near sufficient to supply our wants till our navigation opens in the spring of the year. In addition, owing to the quantity of fuel consumed, there is a scarcity of that valuable article. The major part of our printing materials having been destroyed, the proprietor of the Mercantile Journal has with great kindness offered us the use of his types, &c.—*From the Royal Gazette.*

21. *Another calamitous and distressing Fire.*—About half-past three o'clock this morning, just as we were about to put our paper to press, we were alarmed by a signal for fire, and we have now the painful task to record, after so short a lapse of time, another extensive and distressing conflagration.

It appeared that the fire was observed in the premises of Messrs. Hale, Reed, and Co. in Water-street, and soon extended its ravages to the westward, as far as the house of Mr. Benj. Bowring, on the upper side, and the store of Mr. Robert Nevis on the lower side, where, by very powerful exertions, it was stopped in its westerly

terly direction, but continued advancing eastward until about half-past 9, by which time it had burnt the premises of Mr. James Clift, where great exertions were required, and were happily exerted, to save the premises of Messrs. Perkins and Winter, upon which depended the safety of the whole range of houses on the Church-hill, on the upper side, and the stores of Messrs. Trimmings and Co. on the lower side, just where the late fire was stopped in its progress westward; all of which buildings narrowly escaped on the 7th inst. Thus a great part of the western half of the town, which we contemplated as a shelter for the then distressed, is laid in ashes, and many families have to lament and feel the painful distress of a second time being burnt out of their dwellings in the short space of fourteen days: by what means many of them will find shelter the approaching winter, we are at a loss to conjecture, should they even be fortunate enough to have the means of purchasing necessities.

In this hasty account we cannot enter fully into particulars, nor can we at this short notice pretend to estimate the aggregate amount of the damage done to the very extensive stores and dwelling of Messrs. Cunninghame, Bell, and Co., and those of Messrs. Hale, Reed, and Co., Ryan and Sons, Mr. Robert Nevins, Mr. James Clift, Mr. John Burke, and several other mercantile establishments, have fallen a sacrifice to the devouring flames: the dwelling-house, shop, &c. of Mr. Nevins, were preserved.—*From the Mercantile Journal.*

An ordinance has been passed in the city of Savannah, by which any one who teaches a person of colour, either a slave or free, to read or write, or causes such person to be so taught, is subjected to a fine of 30 dollars for each offence; and every person of colour who shall keep a school to teach reading or writing, is subject to a fine of 30 dollars, or be imprisoned ten days, and whipped 39 lashes.

20. It is with much concern we inform our readers of the sad catastrophe that has befallen the stone beacon, which, for some years past, has been erecting upon the Carr Rock, situate at the entrance of the Frith of Forth, and lying about two miles off Fifeness. The building was visited by the superintendant on the 10th inst., and reported to be all in good order. On the evening of the 14th a very heavy swell of sea came ashore, and on the 15th the ground-swell still continued; but the weather was so thick and foggy that the rock could not be seen till the afternoon, when the sea was observed to break upon it with much violence, but a great part of the building was gone. The Carr Rock forms the terminating point to seaward of a most dangerous sunken reef, extending about two miles from the shore. The numerous shipwrecks which, notwithstanding all the improvements on the coast, still happen in this neighbourhood, had rendered the Carr Rock Beacon a work of very considerable interest, and its completion had been looked forward to with much anxiety. The Beacon Rock measures about 72 feet in length; its greatest

greatest breadth is 23 feet, and at high water of spring tides the site of the building was at least 16 feet under the surface or level of the sea. The building, of which we now lament the loss, is understood to have cost in the erection between 2 and 3,000*l.* and bade fair to possess all the advantages of an excellent landmark. It has been pursued for no less than five successive seasons. The loss of this important improvement on the coast will be severely felt by the shipping interest, particularly of the Friths of Forth and Tay; but as we learn from good authority that several courses of the masonry remain uninjured, and these the most difficult and expensive in their erection, having required more than three of the five seasons, we may yet hope that a solid and permanent beacon of stone may be placed on this fatal reef, which would doubtless prove highly useful, though not possessed of all the advantages of the proposed tide machine. — *Edinburgh Paper.*

24. This morning Her Majesty, accompanied by the Princess Elizabeth, left the Castle soon after seven o'clock, in the post-chaise formerly used by the King as a travelling carriage, to proceed to Bath.

25. *St. John's, Newfoundland.*—The Grand Jury has been convened, and after a long and full investigation into the subject of the fire, came to the following resolution:—

Court-house, St. John's, Nov. 24.

The Grand Jury having duly considered the evidence laid before them respecting the late fire, which happened on the morning

of the 21st instant, have the satisfaction to state, that they are unanimously of opinion, that the fire originated solely through accident, and therefore they beg to recommend that publicity may be given to the result of this investigation, in order that every unfavourable impression on the subject may be removed from the public mind.

DAVID TASKER, Foreman.

25. *Lucca.*—Chevalier Bardoxi Azara, the Spanish ambassador at Turin, took possession yesterday, in the presence of the judiciary and administrative authorities at the palace, of the principality of Lucca, in the name of her Majesty, Maria Louisa, Infanta of Spain. The Spanish colours were hoisted amid the acclamations, a thousand times repeated, of *Viva La Reine!* by an immense population. The authorities are provisionally confirmed in their places.

Saxony.—The States of Saxony have requested the express confirmation of the old constitution, the suppression of pensions to wealthy persons, a diminution of the expense of the military establishment, and a control over the public disbursements.

There is not the smallest idea of any improvement of the constitution, particularly of the system of representation.

28. *Ramsgate.*—A distressing occurrence happened in this neighbourhood early yesterday morning:—A serjeant, corporal, and three private marines, stationed at this place for the prevention of smuggling, were out on duty during the night, and having proceeded upon the sands to a place called Dampton-stair-gateway, between this place and Broadstairs, they,

they, for the purpose of shelter, and the more effectually to secrete themselves, took up a position under a projection of the cliff, where they remained until day-break, when the serjeant ordered one of the privates to call in a party, who were stationed on the opposite side of the Gateway, nearer to Broadstairs. The man had gone but a few paces, when an immense portion of the cliff gave way, and buried in its fall his four hapless companions. The fall was so sudden, that it struck his musket from his shoulder, and he fortunately escaped, though in a very terrified state of mind, to give an alarm of the fate of his unhappy comrades. Immediately on its being known, Mr. D. B. Jarman, an inhabitant of this town, accompanied by Mr. N. Gott and a gang of men from the works at the harbour, proceeded to the spot, and commenced cutting a trench through the middle of the chalk, and after two or three hours laborious exertion, they found the serjeant and corporal extended on their faces, and presenting a most shocking spectacle. In the course of a few hours more, the two privates were found as having been in a sitting posture, but with their heads forced betwixt their legs, and crushed in a most dreadful manner. The bodies, as taken out, were placed in a boat, and conveyed to Broadstairs, preparatory to the Coroner's inquest, the accident having happened within the limits of the parish of St. Peter.

29. *Edinburgh.* — On Tuesday morning, a little after 9 o'clock, a fire was observed issuing from the roof of the College, on the north-

west quarter, which suddenly assumed an alarming and threatening appearance. The fire engines were speedily brought to the spot, and the supply of water, though at first limited, was, by the unremitting exertions of many respectable gentlemen and others, procured in sufficient quantities, adequate to the demand of all the engines. By the strenuous exertions of the firemen, aided by the direction of several of the professors, the flames were rapidly got under, and the fire completely subdued in the space of two hours. The interior of the apartment, however, in which it was confined, is entirely destroyed. The magistrates, professors, students, and gentlemen in the neighbourhood, rendered every assistance; and the attention of the High Constables and the Superintendent of the Police, together with a detachment of the 88th regiment from the garrison, which was directed in keeping the communication open from the College to the several fire-cocks, was of the first importance, and tended greatly to facilitate the extinction of the destructive element. The roof was under repair, but from what cause the fire originated, we believe, has not yet been ascertained. The engine belonging to the Royal Exchange Assurance, which now stands at Leith, was on the first alarm immediately dispatched from thence, with its firemen, by the agents, Messrs. Thomsons and Pollock. During the fire, Mr. Playfair, the engineer, was distinguished by his anxiety and intrepidity on the occasion. Hurrying from some distance, on the first alarm, he was soon on the roof,

roof, directing the operations of the firemen; and, when part of it was broken in, he descended into the part on fire, with a rope fastened to his body, and the pipe of one of the engines in his hand; and this intrepid example being followed by several of the firemen and others, the water was soon made to play with more powerful effect upon the part of the building which was in flames.

DECEMBER.

3. It appears from the Dublin papers which arrived yesterday, that the typhus fever increases in certain parts of Ireland. In the space of 26 days, 246 patients were received into the fever hospital of Limerick, which considerably exceeds the number discharged in that interval.

Munich.—The Concordat entered into between the Holy See and our Government has been published here. It was concluded on the 5th of June last, but was not announced in the allocution of the Pope till the 15th of November. The following are its principal articles:—

1. The Catholic Religion shall remain untouched in Bavaria and its dependencies, with the rights and prerogatives which it ought to enjoy according to the Divine arrangements, and the canonical laws.

(Articles 2 and 3 regulate the number and position of the dioceses and chapters, with the jurisdiction of the latter.)

4. The Archiepiscopal and Episcopal revenues shall be established

on fixed funds, which shall be left to the free administration of the Prelates. Then follows the state of the church-revenues. The sums of these revenues shall always be preserved entire, and the property and funds out of which they arise shall never be diverted from their end, nor changed into pensions. During the vacancy of the sees and benefices these revenues will be preserved for the uses of the respective churches. Bishops, Archbishops, Dignitaries, Canons, and Vicars, shall have, besides, convenient residences provided for them.

(Art. 5. and 6 relate to the establishment of seminaries and houses of retreat for superannuated ecclesiastics.)

7. His Majesty, considering what advantages the Church, and even the State itself, have derived from religious orders, and wishing to show his good will towards the Holy See, engages to establish, in concert with the Holy See, some monasteries of religious orders of both sexes, to form the youth in religion and learning, to assist the pastors, and to take care of the sick.

8. The property of seminaries, of parish churches, of benefices belonging to all kinds of ecclesiastical establishments, will always be preserved entire. The church will have in addition the right of acquiring new possessions, and all that it shall acquire will belong to it, and will enjoy the same kind of security as the old ecclesiastical foundations. No suppression or union can be made either of the old or new without the intervention of the authority of the Holy

Holy See, except by the powers granted to the Bishops by the Council of Trent.

9. The Pope shall grant institution upon the presentment of proper persons to fill the sees by the King.

(The three following articles relate to the forms of nominating Bishops, and regulate their rights and functions in the administration of their dioceses.)

13. When the Bishops or Archbishops shall point out to the Government works printed in the kingdom, or introduced into it, containing doctrines contrary to the faith, the Government will undertake the care of suppressing them by proper means.

14. His Majesty will prevent the Catholic religion, its rites and its liturgy, from being held up to ridicule either by words, deeds, or writings, and will take care that the Bishops and Pastors shall not encounter any obstacles in the exercise of their functions.

15. The Archbishops and Bishops shall take before the King the oath of fidelity, couched in the following words.—“ I swear and promise on the Holy Evangelists, fidelity and obedience to the King. I promise that I will have no communication, that I will attend no assembly, that I will maintain no relations, within or without the kingdom; that may injure the tranquillity of the kingdom; and if I learn that any plot is formed in my diocese, or otherwise, against the State, I shall make it known to his Majesty.”

9. *Before the Recorder and a London Jury.*—*Child Stealing.*—Louisa Perkins was indicted for

having forcibly and fraudulently carried away a certain female child of the age of five years and seven months, with intent to deprive Susannah Porter, widow, of the possession of the said child.

The prosecutrix was a widow, and lived at No. 15, Vere-street, Clare-market. The child in question was the only child she had. On Tuesday morning, the 4th of November, at half-past 8 o'clock, she sent the little girl with a basket and cloth to buy some rolls, to Mr. Kemble's, the corner of Vere-street. The child had been gone nearly half an hour, and witness being uneasy, sent a man to the baker's to inquire if the child was there; she heard no tidings, and witness then went out herself, and sent two other persons in different directions. Between 11 and 12 o'clock, on her return home, somebody called to her, and said that the child was at home. When she went home she found the child there.

The little child, whose name was Enma, was then examined on oath. She said, when she went out of her mother's door, to go to the baker's, she crossed over the way. She then saw the prisoner, who followed her; she went up a street, and the prisoner followed and laid hold of her hand; then she let loose of it, and she went into the baker's shop. When she came out, the prisoner, who was at the door, took her up into her arms, carried her up Duke-street, and set her down to walk in Lincoln's-inn-fields. Then she went down Portugal-street into the Temple, and went through a number of dark passages.

passages. When she almost got to Blackfriars-bridge, Mr. Gibson took her away from the woman. When the prisoner spoke to her, she told her that she would buy her some biscuits, and make her some doll's things. This was all that passed. The prisoner took nothing from her, and never said where she was going to take her. She had never seen the prisoner before. No rolls were bought at the baker's.

James Gibson, a cooper, living in Redcross-street in the Borough, stated, that on the 4th of November, as he was passing by Temple-bar about 9 in the morning, he saw the prisoner at the bar with the child, having hold of it by the wrist. While walking along Fleet-street, the child resisted, and appeared to be crying bitterly. He followed her until she got to the archway leading to the Temple. She went down the gateway, and dragged the child to the piazza. The child resisted very much. She proceeded a little further, stopped, and talked to the child in a passage, and told it she would give it some biscuits. The prisoner then came out and went towards the parade, down to the river side; the passage was stopped up, and she was obliged to return. She then proceeded through the Temple, to the corner of Tudor-street. The child here resisted very much, and threw a napkin it had in its hand upon the pavement out of a basket, in the effort of resisting. He then attempted to take the child from the prisoner, but the prisoner would not allow it. He asked her what she was going to do with the child, and

the prisoner replied, "D—n you, Sir, what have you to do with it? She is my niece; she has been disorderly, and I shall do what I please with her." With the assistance of another person, he took the child away from the woman; and upon threatening to give her over to the custody of an officer, she persisted in saying that she was the aunt of the child. Witness went with the prisoner and the child to Clare-market, and proceeding up a passage in the Temple, the prisoner endeavoured to run away.

Thomas Higgins stated, that between 9 and 10 o'clock, on the 4th November, in passing through Tudor-street, being requested by Mr. Gibson, he assisted in taking the child from the prisoner.

In her defence the prisoner stated, that she was innocent of the crime laid to her charge. When apprehended she was intoxicated with liquor. This last fact was proved by the officer. Two witnesses gave the prisoner a good character for humanity. She had children of her own, and always behaved kindly to them.

The jury found a verdict—Guilty.

The child was a very pretty little girl, and delivered her evidence with great clearness. The prisoner was a young woman of an interesting appearance, and very genteelly dressed.

9. DUBLIN.—*Contagious Fever*.—It is with pain we find ourselves obliged to return to this distressing subject. In many parts of the country, fever continues to rage; and in the county of Cavan, we are informed, a contagion of a peculiar

peculiar malignant character has recently appeared. The following resolution has been come to by the corporate body of this city.—

That we do strongly recommend to our fellow-citizens, to take the most prompt and active measures within their respective parishes, to have the habitations of the poor properly cleansed and white-washed, as the best means of preserving the present healthy state of the city, and of preventing the introduction of the contagious fever that has proved so destructive in several parts of the country.

10. *Bologna*.—A notification of the Cardinal Secretary of State has been published here in the following terms:—

His Holiness having guaranteed to their possessors the acquisitions of national property which they had made for reasons expressed in the edict of July 5, 1815, and in the *motu proprio* of July 16, 1816, provided these acquisitions have been originally made without contravention of the laws and regulations established by the Italian and French Government; and wishing that these dispositions should not be altered, and that all doubts and errors, inevitable when these questions are brought before the tribunals, should be removed, has been pleased to order that actions attacking the validity of the above-mentioned acquisitions should not be prosecuted before any tribunal whatever; and that pending suits on this account should not be proceeded in, but that they be brought before the particular con-

gregation instituted by the said *motu proprio*, which is invested with necessary powers.

11. *Weimar*.—The Government has addressed the following circular to the residents and *Chargés d’Affaires* of the Grand Duchy:—

“ It has frequently happened for some time past, that some of the *Chargés d’Affaires* of the Grand Duchy have transmitted to Government complaints on the part of foreign diplomatists, in regard to articles inserted in the public journals of the Grand Duchy. These reports can have no other object than that of causing the publication of such articles to be prohibited in future, or of inflicting punishment upon the authors of such as have been already published. But none of these purposes can be accomplished in this manner; and Messrs. the *Chargés de Affaires* ought to know, according to the anterior communication made to them by the Government—

“ 1st. That the censorship of the press has been totally abolished in the Grand Duchy of Weimar, by the fundamental constitution of the States, which all the Sovereigns and States of the Confederation have solemnly guaranteed; and, consequently, that there exist no legal means of preventing the publication of articles that may prove offensive.

“ 2. That in the case of well-founded complaints against injurious and unbecoming assertions published in print, the authors and editors of such productions must, after an examination as to the importance of the matters complained of, be proceeded against in

in a mode conformable to the ordinance of the 13th April.

But Messrs. the *Chargés d'Affaires* will easily perceive, that in order to apply the penalties therein decreed, an accusation communicated *verbally* is not sufficient; but that it will be necessary to have complaints in writing, addressed to the undersigned minister, and founded chiefly upon the consideration, that the good understanding between the Court of the Grand Duchy and that of the complaining minister may not be interrupted.

In referring anew to the fundamental law of the 5th of May, 1816, and to the ordinance of the 13th of April of the same year, such of you, as by receiving and transmitting the expressions of disapprobation above alluded to, showed that they were strangers to the spirit and intent of our constitution and legislation — these presents will, at the same time, convey to all the Residents and *Chargés de Affaires* of the Grand Duchy the instruction, that they shall no longer receive nor report upon any verbal complaints made to them with respect to articles and passages in the public journals of the Grand Duchy, but shall reject such communications; and observe that, in order to any proceeding in such cases, the complaints must be addressed, in due form, to the undersigned Minister of State, and founded upon the consideration abovementioned.

For the rest, the Grand Ducal rescript subjoined to these presents, and of the same date, is communicated to you as a proof of the anxiety of His Royal Highness the Grand Duke to do justice

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in all cases of such complaints as may be presented to him, as far as may be compatible with the constitution of the country.

Weimar, Nov. 14, 1817.

Third Department of the
Ministry of State,
(Signed) Count ELDING.

13. ISLE OF WIGHT. — *Fatal Duel.*—On Wednesday last an inquest was taken at the Dolphin-inn, in West Cowes, before Thomas Sewell, Esq. Coroner of the Isle of Wight, on view of the body of a gentleman of the name of John Sutton, who was killed in a duel, in Northwood-park, that morning. It appeared in evidence, that the deceased was one of the passengers about to proceed to St. Thomas, in the ship *Grace*, now lying in Cowes-roads: that on the preceding evening the deceased, a Major Lockyer, a Mr. Redesdale, and a Mr. Hand, and other passengers, were in company together at the Dolphin; that Major Lockyer took offence at some expression made use of by the deceased, and in consequence challenged him. The parties met the next morning, Mr. Redesdale attending as second to Major Lockyer, and Mr. Hand as second to the deceased. Major Lockyer only fired at the appointed signal; the ball entered the deceased's body between the third and fourth ribs on the right side, passed through the ventricle of the heart, lodged in the integuments on the left side, and occasioned, of course, instant death. The principal and seconds immediately fled. The jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict of *wilful murder* against Major Lockyer and Messrs. Redesdale

K

desdale and Hand, and the Coroner issued his warrant for their apprehension. Mr. Hand was apprehended (by Allen, the Newport constable) at Portsmouth, on Thursday: the others are still at large.

14. *Montrose*.—About mid-day on Sunday last, a vessel, supposed to be the *Forth* packet, Galloway, from Aberdeen to Leith, with a general cargo, was seen tossing about on our coast in a hurricane (which there is every reason to fear has not been limited to it alone), seemingly in great distress. About 2 o'clock she made an attempt to make the harbour; but the mariners, not being probably aware of the difficulty of the navigation of the river, approached too near the land, and struck upon the Annet, a sand-bank which has often proved fatal to thousands. In this situation they remained for some little time, during which a great number of people on board were distinctly seen by the numerous spectators from the shore, some throwing themselves into the arms of one another, seemingly in the utmost despair, and others clinging to the rigging, and using every effort to preserve themselves from the devouring element. The life-boat was instantly launched, and went out in defiance of the tempest; but, unfortunately, notwithstanding every exertion being used, could render them no assistance. It is impossible to describe the awful situation of the numerous passengers of various descriptions, who were then ascertained to be on board; among whom was discovered, as the most helpless victim, a young woman

with a child at her breast. The vessel soon after lost her mast, and in a short time became a total wreck. In the course of a few minutes, a soldier's knapsack was washed ashore, and soon after the pelisse of a little child. The wreck now began to appear in all directions, and so complete was the destruction, that in less than an hour it is believed that the whole of it was landed in pieces not exceeding the size of an ordinary plank. Only two of the bodies have yet been found, a man and a woman. The former was immediately recognized by many of the spectators present. It is supposed there were not less than between 30 and 40 persons on board, all of whom perished in the view of some thousand spectators on the beach, without being able to afford the least assistance.

16. *Frankfort*. — Very large quantities of hops have been bought up within these few days for English account, so that the price rose from 50 to 100 florins per cwt. On this sudden rise, speculators immediately set off for Bohemia and other hop countries.

From the London Gazette, Nov. 29.

PROCLAMATION.

George, P. R.

Whereas there unhappily subsists a state of warfare between his Catholic Majesty and divers provinces, or parts of provinces, in Spanish America: and whereas it has been represented to us, that many of our subjects have, without our leave or licence, enlisted or entered themselves to serve in the military forces or ships of war raised or set forth, or intended to be raised or set forth, by the persons

sons exercising or assuming to exercise the powers of Government in such provinces or parts of provinces, and that divers others of our subjects are about in like manner to enter and enlist themselves; and whereas such practices are highly prejudicial to, and tend to endanger the peace and welfare of our crown and dominions: we do therefore hereby, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, strictly charge and command all and every of our natural-born subjects, of what degree or quality soever, not to serve in any such military forces or ships of war as aforesaid, and not to enlist or enter themselves to serve therein, and not to go beyond the seas or embark, in order to serve, or with intent to enter, or enlist themselves to serve in such military forces or ships of war: and it is at the same time our royal will and pleasure, and we do, by and with the advice aforesaid, hereby also strictly charge and command all and every of our said subjects not to serve or enlist, or enter themselves to serve in any of the military forces or ships of war raised or set forth, or to be raised or set forth, by his Catholic Majesty, and not to go beyond the seas, or embark, in order, or to the intent to serve, or enter, or enlist themselves, to serve in such military forces or ships of war: it is nevertheless our royal will and pleasure, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed or taken to prohibit any of our subjects who are engaged at the time of the date of this our proclamation in serving in the military forces of his Catholic Majesty with our leave or license, from continuing

to serve therein, provided that such our said subjects do not serve with the military forces of his Catholic Majesty when employed in Spanish America: and we do hereby, by and with the advice aforesaid, strictly require all our said subjects duly to conform to our commands herein contained, under pain of our highest displeasure, and the utmost forfeitures, penalties, and punishments, to which by law they will otherwise be liable.

Given at our Court at Brighton, the 27th day of November, 1817, in the 58th year of our reign.

God save the King.

31. The kingdom of Sicily has been divided into Intendancies which are organized like the French departments. There have been established provincial and communal councils, who have reduced to insignificance the authority of the feudal jurisdictions. The Intendancies are to the number of seven, namely, Palermo with 405,231 inhabitants, Messina with 236,784, Catania 289,406, Girgenti 288,877, Syracuse 192,710, Trapani 145,712, and Calata Nissetta 155,225 — making, in all, 1,648,955 inhabitants.

The vessels for exploring the northern regions have begun to be equipped. Two are to endeavour to penetrate through Davis's Straits, and two to reach the North Pole, if possible; by which means it is expected to ascertain whether Greenland is an island, or part of the continents of Asia or America. The vessels are to be stored with every requisite in provisions, nautical instruments, &c. The crew, it is said, will consist of 50 men, including officers, in each

each vessel. They will also be provided with every appendage used by the Greenland ships; and some experienced men in that service are to go in the vessels.

The *Quotidienne* contains the following paragraph:—

“The Archdukes John and Lewis have given permission to a German journalist to publish some extracts from a journal which they kept during their stay in England. These princes examined with care the English manufactures and agriculture: they give also some details as to the style of living in the upper classes, which are not within the reach of all travellers. The magnificent interior of the country-seats, the taste of the furniture, the amiable and decorous freedom of their conversations, the interest which the women excite, as much by their cultivated minds as by their charms—these are the points which struck these illustrious travellers during their abode in the country. It is there, say they, that you should study the high society of England, and even the character of all its gentlemen. London is merely a large inn; it is at his country-house that the Englishman is hospitable and amiable. The Archdukes describe the manner of dining at the Marquis of Anglesea's. It presents a novelty for our gourmands; after soup they took cold punch. A celebrated agriculturist, the Chevalier Sebright, had the Princes for his guests, and showed them his numerous machines. Miss Sebright is a *savante* (a scientific lady); she made an experiment in galvanism before the Archdukes, with a little galvanic battery. The Chevalier Sebright

grows such enormous turnips, that one day he sent to his sister 19 partridges in the hollow of one of these roots.”

The following article, from the *London Gazette* of July 15, was accidentally omitted in its proper division of our Chronicle:—

By His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty,

A PROCLAMATION.

George, P. R.

Whereas it has been represented unto Us, that divers misguided persons in some of the midland counties of England, have of late years committed various acts of outrage, in breaking and destroying frames used in making stockings, lace, and other articles in the frame-worked-knitted manufactory; and that, among other instances of such outrages, a most heinous one was committed on the night of the 28th day of June last at Loughborough, when a large number of such frames was broken, and an attempt was made to murder one of the persons intrusted with the care of them. And whereas it hath been farther represented unto Us, that such outrages have for the most part been prompted by a desire, on the part of the journeymen employed in the said manufactory, to dictate to their masters the terms on which the manufactory should be carried on, or the prices at which work should be done, which dictation is utterly inconsistent with the principles of justice, and destructive of the freedom and prosperity of trade. And

whereas

whereas measures have been taken, by the wisdom of his Majesty's Parliament, for repressing such outrages in future, by increasing the punishment for the same; and in the hope that such measures will effectually deter persons from the future commission of such offences, We are desirous of extending his Majesty's most gracious pardon to all those who have hitherto offended herein, except as hereinafter is mentioned: We have therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of his Majesty's Privy Council, to issue this Proclamation, and in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, We do hereby promise and declare, that every person who hath committed any offence against the form of the Statute made in the fifty-fourth year of his Majesty's reign, for the punishment of persons destroying stocking or lace frames, but hath not yet been charged therewith,

and who shall, previous to the first day of September next ensuing, appear before some justice of the peace or magistrate, and declare such his offence, and when, where, and by whom the same was committed, shall receive his Majesty's most gracious pardon for such offence; and that no confession so made by any such person shall be given in evidence in any court or in any case whatever; provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend to the offence so committed at Loughborough, as aforesaid, nor to any other offence, except such as may have been committed contrary to the said statute made in the 54th year aforesaid.

Given at the Court at Carlton-house, the 15th day of July, 1817, in the 57th year of his Majesty's reign.

God save the King.

BIRTHS.

January.

The lady of Major-general Sir William Anson, a son.

The Countess of Clonmel, a son and heir.

The wife of C. W. Taylor, Esq. M. P. a son and heir.

Lady Mortlock, a daughter.

The lady of the Hon. J. T. Leslie Melville, a son.

The lady of Major-general Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe, bart. a daughter.

The lady of the Right Hon. Lord Bridport, a daughter.

Viscountess Folkestone, a daughter.

Lady Eleanor Balfour, a daughter.

Lady Elibank, a son.

At Montreal, the Countess of Selkirk, a daughter.

February.

The lady of Sir Hungerford Hoskyns, a son.

Viscountess Dungannon, a daughter.

The wife of General Francis Dundas, a son.

The Princess of Orange, a son.

The wife of the Hon. Captain Irby, a daughter.

The wife of William Henry Ashurst, Esq. M. P. a daughter.

The lady of Sir Henry Darell, a son.

The lady of Sir Geo. Prescott, a son.

Lady Charlotte Neville, a son.

The wife of Major Howard Vyse, M. P. a son.

The lady of Sir Simeon Stuart, a daughter.

Hon. Mrs. Bland, a son.

Lady Catherine Cavendish, a daughter.

The Countess of Shannon, a daughter.

The lady of Lord Robert Tottenham, Bishop of Killaloe, a daughter.

The Countess De la Warr, a son.

March.

The lady of Sir John Fenton Boughey, bart. a daughter.

The lady of the Hon. Dr. Ryder, Bishop of Gloucester, a daughter.

The lady of Rear-adm. Sir John Gore, a daughter.

The Marchioness of Tweedale, a daughter.

Viscountess Pollington, a son.

The Countess of Ilchester, a son.

Hon. Mrs. Butler, a daughter.

The lady of Sir James M'Grigor, a son.

The lady of Sir James Lake, bart. a daughter.

The lady of Sir Henry C. Montgomery, bart. a daughter.

The wife of Hon. D. M. Erskine, a son.

Lady Sarah Lyttleton, a son.

Lady Charlotte Duncombe, a son.

The wife of Albany Saville, Esq. M. P. a son.

The wife of Davies Gilbert (Giddy), Esq. M. P. a daughter.

Lady Louisa Call, a daughter.

Lady Hunter Blair, a son.

The wife of the Hon. Mr. Clifford, a daughter.

April.

Viscountess Havarden, a son and heir.

Lady

Lady Emily Murray, a daughter.
The Countess of Rothes, a daughter.

Hon. Mrs. George Villiers, a son.

Lady Curtis, a son.

Lady Stopford, a son.

Lady Gertrude Sloane, a son.

The Duchess of Newcastle, a son.

The lady of Sir Philip Broke, bart. a daughter.

The Marchioness of Queensberry, a daughter.

The lady of Adm. Sir G. Cockburn, a daughter.

Lady K. Halkett, a son.

Lady Frances Clonmore, a daughter.

Hon. Mrs. Sullivan, a son.

Lady Edward O'Brien, a daughter.

The wife of the Hon. and Rev. Gerard Noel, a daughter.

Lady Anna Maria Cuffee, a son and heir.

Lady of Sir Edward Bayntun Sandys, a daughter.

Lady of Sir J. Trollope, a son.

Lady Baker, a son.

May.

Lady Harriet Paget, a daughter.

Viscountess Milton, a son.

The wife of William Dickinson, Esq. M.P. a daughter.

Right Hon. Lady Graves, a daughter.

The wife of E. Littleton, Esq. M.P. a daughter.

Right Hon. Lady Fitzroy Somerset, a son.

Lady Katherine Stewart, a daughter.

The wife of John Ireland Blackburne, Esq. M.P. a son and heir.

Rt. Hon. Lady Sophia Whichcote, a son.

The wife of the Hon. J. Tucket, eldest son of Lord Audley, a son.

Lady Rivers, a daughter.

The lady of Sir John Judkin Fitzgerald, a daughter.

Lady James Hay, a daughter.

June.

The wife of Major-gen. Beatson, a son.

The Lady of Earl Compton, a daughter.

Lady Robert Kerr, a daughter.

The Countess of Minto, a son.

Lady Elizabeth Smyth, a daughter.

Lady Ridley, a son.

The wife of W. T. Money, Esq. M.P. a son.

The lady of Sir J. A. Gordon, a daughter.

July.

The Duchess of Bedford, a son.

Hon. Mrs. Dawson, a daughter.

Lady Clerk, a daughter.

The lady of Sir Richard Jephson, bart. a son.

The wife of the Hon. and Rev. J. Evelyn Boscawen, a daughter.

The wife of the Hon. Edward Thornton, a son.

The wife of the Hon. and Rev. H. C. Cust, a daughter.

The Countess of Errol, a son.

The Hon. Mrs. Peter Latouche, a daughter.

Lady Thurlow, a son.

Lady of Sir John Chandos Reade, bart. a daughter.

Lady Manners, a son, (still born.)

Lady Barbara Ponsonby, a daughter.

The lady of Lord Cringletie, a son.

Lady Caroline Cocks, a daughter.

Hon.

Hon. Mrs. Lysaght, a son.
 Hon. Mrs. Kilvington, a son.
 Lady Charlotte Goold, a daughter.
 Hon. Mrs. Heneage, a daughter.

August.

The wife of the Hon. and Rev. J. Pleydel Bouverie, a son.
 The wife of James Alexander, Esq. M. P. a daughter.
 Right Hon. Lady Amelia Sophia Boyce, a son.
 Right Hon. Lady Mary Long, a son.
 The wife of Captain the Hon. Alexander Jones, a daughter.
 The Countess Jules de Polignac, a son.
 Lady Kensington, a daughter.
 Lady Jane Pym, a daughter.
 Lady Frances Cole, daughter of the Earl of Malmesbury, a son.
 Hon. Mrs. Weld, a daughter.
 Hon. Mrs. Germain, a son.
 Right Hon. Lady Louvaine, a son.
 The lady of Adm. Sir J. Beresford, a daughter.
 The wife of H. Willoughby, Esq. M. P. a son.
 Lady Dunbar, of Boath, a daughter.
 Hon. Mrs. St. John, a daughter.
 The lady of the Rev. Sir Charles Anderson, bart. a daughter.
 The lady of Lieut.-col. Hon. W. H. Gardner, a son.
 Lady Rendlesham, a daughter.

September.

The lady of Sir G. Eyre, a daughter.
 Lady Cremorne, a son and heir.
 The lady of Rear-adm. Otway, a daughter.

The Marchioness of Downshire, a daughter.

The wife of Robert Abercrombie, Esq. M. P. a daughter.

Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave, a son.

The lady of Sir Bellingham Graham, bart. a daughter.

The wife of the Hon. Alexander Murray, a son.

The lady of Sir William Duff Gordon, bart. M. P. a daughter.

The wife of Major-gen. the Hon. Godfrey Bosville, a son.

Lady Menzies, a son.

October.

Hon. Mrs. G. L. Newnham, a daughter.

The Marchioness of Ely, a son.

Right Hon. Lady Caroline Anne Macdonald, a daughter.

The wife of Hon. Charles Law, a daughter.

Lady Eleanor Fetherston, a daughter.

The lady of Sir Edw. O'Brien, bart. a daughter.

Lady Maxwell, of Monteith, a daughter.

The lady of Lieut.-col. Sir Hew Ross, a son.

The wife of Cuthbert Ellison, Esq. M. P. a daughter.

The lady of Brig.-gen. Sir John Campbell, a daughter.

Lady Gibson Carmichael, a son.

The wife of Joseph Marryat, Esq. M. P. a son.

Countess of Hopeton, a son.

The Countess of Longford, a son and heir.

The wife of F. C. Cavendish, Esq. a son and heir.

November.

Lady Eliz. Douglas, wife of Rev. C. Douglas, a daughter.

Lady

Lady Charles Bentinck, a son.
The Lady of Sir John Gordon
Sinclair, a daughter.

The Duchess of Rutland, a son.
The Lady of Sir Charles Wale,
a son.

The Lady of Sir William Wiseman, bart. a daughter.

The wife of Hon. Charles Langdale, a daughter.

The wife of Major-gen. Nead,
a son.

Hon. Mrs. Morris, a daughter.

The lady of Sir George Denys,
bart. M. P. a son.

Lady Caroline Wood, a son.

The Countess of Abingdon, a
son.

Lady Eliz. Halliday, a son.

The lady of Sir Robert Graham,
bart. a son.

Hon. Mrs. Irby, a daughter.

The lady of Sir James Douglas,
a son.

The lady of Lieut.-col. Sir A.
Dickson, a son.

December.

The lady of Sir Rob. Williams,
bart. M. P. a son.

The wife of Col. Hughes, M.P.
a daughter.

The lady of Sir John Shelley,
bart. M.P. a daughter.

The Countess Talbot, a son.

The lady of Sir Richard Brooke,
a son.

The lady of Gen. Sir Richard
Jones, a daughter.

Lady Petre, a son and heir.

The lady of Gen. Sir William
Parker Carrol, bart. a son.

The lady of Sir Pulteney Mal-
colm, a son.

The wife of Lieut.-gen. Onslow,
a daughter.

The lady of Sir Edw. Kerrison,
M. P. a daughter,

MARRIAGES.

January.

Rt. Hon. Joshua Lord Hunting-
field, to Miss Blois, daughter of
Sir C. Blois, bart.

H. J. Conyers, Esq. son of J.
Conyers, Esq. of Copt Hall, Essex,
to Harriet second daughter of Rt.
Hon. Thomas Steele.

Sir John Anstruther, M. P. to
Jessie third daughter of Major-
gen. Dowan.

Lieut.-col. Sir Guy Campbell,
bart. to Frances Eliz. eldest dau.
and co-heiress of Montagu Bur-
goyne, Esq.

John Becket, Esq. under secre-
tary of state for the home de-
partment, to Lady Anne Lowther,
third daughter to the Earl of
Lonsdale.

The Earl of Longford, to Lady
Georgiana Lygon.

Hon. Mr. Langdale, of Haugh-
ton, Yorkshire, to the Hon. Char-
lotte Clifford, daughter of Lord
Clifford.

February.

Sir Watkin Williams Wynne,
bart. to Lady Harriet Clive, eldest
daughter of the Earl of Powis.

Major-gen. Moore, to Cecilia
only child of W. Watson, Esq.

March.

Lieut.-general the Hon. Sir Wil-
liam Lumley, to Louisa Margaret,
widow of the late Major Cotton.

Major-gen. Sir William Parker
Carroll, to Emma Sophia, daugh-
ter of M. E. Sherwill, Esq.

John

John Bushe, Esq. eldest son to the solicitor-gen. for Ireland, to the Hon. Louisa Hare, daughter of Viscount Ennismore.

Col. James Campbell, to Lady Dorothea L. Cuffe, daughter of the late Earl of Desart.

Major-gen. Sir Thomas Sidney Beckwith, to Mary eldest daughter of the late Sir William Douglas, bart.

April.

Capt. Somerset, son to Lord Charles Somerset, to the daughter of Capt. Heathcote, R.N.

Charles Earl of March, eldest son to the Duke of Richmond, to Lady Caroline Paget, eldest dau. of the Marquis of Anglesey.

Captain R. D. Spread, to the Hon. Emily Wingfield, youngest daughter of the late Visc. Powerscourt.

Sir William Hoste, bart, R.N. to Lady Harriet Walpole, third daughter of the Earl of Orford.

Charles Fraser, Esq. M.P. to Jane, fourth daughter of Sir John Hay, bart.

Earl Percy, to Lady Charlotte-Florentia Clive, daughter of the Earl of Powis.

William Grey, Esq. to Anne, eldest daughter of Sir Samuel Clerk Jervoise.

William Foster, Esq. to Mary-Anne, second daughter of Sir William Bagshaw.

At Paris, the Comte de Choiseul, aide-de-camp of the Duke of Berry, to the Hon. Maria Charlotte Parkyns, youngest daughter of the late Lord Raneliffe.

May.

Mr. Donovan, to Miss Vanneck,

eldest daughter, and Mr. Lovelace, to the youngest daughter of the late Lord Huntingfield.

Ralph Franco, Esq. M.P. to Miss Ludlow, daughter of A. Ludlow, Esq.

P. B. Lawley, Esq. to the Hon. Caroline Neville, youngest daughter of Lord Braybroke.

Henry Blount, Esq. eldest son of Michael Blount, Esq. to Eliza, fourth daughter of the late Lord Petre.

Hon. C. Lowther, second son of the Earl of Lonsdale, to Right Hon. Lady Eleanor Sherrard, daughter of the late Earl of Harborough.

Hon. William Middleton Noel, to Anne, only child of Joseph Yates, Esq.

Edmund Phelps, Esq. to Anne Catherine Countess of Antrim.

Sir Robert Wilmot, bart. to Mrs. Crawford, widow of D. Crawford, Esq.

Mr. Milbank, to Lady Augusta Vane, second daughter of the Earl of Darlington.

Hon. Charles Noel Noel to the second daughter of the Hon. Sir George Grey.

June.

Lord George William Russell, second son of the Duke of Bedford, to Elizabeth Anne, only child of the late Hon. John Rawdon.

Samuel Crawley, Esq. to Theodosia-Mary, eldest daughter of the Right Hon. Lady Theodosia Vyner.

Anthony Denny, Esq. to the Hon. Mary Patrinier, youngest dau. of the late Lord Collingwood.

Charles Shaw Lefevre, jun. Esq. to Emma Laura, youngest daughter of Lady Eliz. Whitbread.

Robert

Robert Ackland, Esq. to Caroline, second daughter of Admiral Sir Charles Tyler.

The Earl of Kintore, to Juliet, third daughter of the late Robert Renny, Esq.

July.

Hon. Orlando Bridgman, third son of the Earl of Bradford, to Selina, fourth daughter of the Hon. Gen. Needham.

Henry Iveson, Esq. to Jessie, third daughter of Sir Archibald Grant, of Monymusk.

Viscount Strangford, to Ellen, youngest daughter of the late Sir John Bourke, bart. and relict of Nicholas Browne, Esq.

Major-gen. Sir John Buchan, to Laura, only daughter of Col. Mark Wilks.

Capt. William Johnson Campbell, to Anna-Maria, only daughter of the late Sir F. Vincent, bart.

Fred. William Wollaston, Esq. to Lucy, only daughter of the late Sir H. Strachy, bart.

Viscount Ebrington, to Lady Susan Ryder, eldest daughter of the Earl of Harrowby.

John Wallace Hamilton, Esq. to the Hon. Georgiana Vereker, youngest daughter of Viscount Gort.

August.

Martin John West, Esq. to Lady Maria Walpole, daughter of the Earl of Orford.

John Wythe, Esq. to Anne, eldest daughter of the late Hon. Gen. Sir Bridges Trecothick Heniker, bart.

R. A. Oswald, Esq. to the Rt. Hon. Lady Lillas Macqueen,

September.

J. Jones, jun. Esq. to Lady Harriet Plunkett, only daughter of the Earl of Fingal.

Rev. Charles Thos. Johnson, to Lucy-Anne, youngest daughter of the late Sir J. Blois, bart.

October.

The Earl of Desart, to Catherine, eldest daughter of Maurice N. O'Connor, Esq.

Capt. John Bastard, M.P. to Frances, eldest daughter of the late B. Wade, Esq.

Rev. Arthur Hyde, to Frances, eldest daughter of Sir H. Crofton, bart.

J. Clementson, Esq. to Eliza, third daughter of Sir T. Turton, bart.

Lieut.-col. D'Arcy, to Lady Catherine Georgiana West, daughter of the late Earl Delawarr.

Rear-Admiral Sir Philip Charles Durham, to Ann Isabella, only child of Sir J. Henderson, bart.

Hon. Capt. J. A. Maude, R.N. to Albina Broderic, second daughter of the Archbishop of Cashel.

Lord Selsey, to the Hon. Anna Maria Louisa Irby, youngest daughter of Lord Boston.

November.

Capt Pakenham, R.N. to Caroline, third daughter of Admiral Sir Home Popham.

E. A. Sanford, Esq. to Henrietta, eldest daughter of the late Sir William Langham, bart.

Rev. Horatio T. Newman, to Charlotte Elizabeth, third daughter of the late Right Hon. Denis Daly.

Viscount

Viscount Kinnaird, son of the Earl of Newburgh, to Margaret Kennedy, third daughter of the Earl of Cassillis.

Stewart Crawford, M.D. of Bath, to Caroline, youngest daughter of the late Sir W. P. A. A' Court, bart.

George Stanley Repton, Esq. to the Hon. Eliz. Scott, daughter of Lord Eldon.

Hon. C. J. R. Monck, youngest son of the late Visc. Monck, to Miss B. Willington, youngest daughter of the late J. W. Esq.

Richârd Bligh, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn, to Eliz. third daughter of Vice-Admiral Bligh.

T. Nicoll, Esq. of Jersey, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late Maj.-gen. Caruthers.

Sir William Long to Miss Morgan.

December.

Joseph Warner Henley, Esq. to Georgiana, fourth daughter of J. Fane, Esq. M.P.

Lord Killeen, only son of the Earl of Fingall, to Louisa, only daughter of E. Corbally, Esq.

Lieut.-Col. Horace Churchill, only son of the late General and Lady Mary Churchill, to Emma-Anne, daughter of the late Captain Finucane.

The Earl of Tyrconnel, to Sarah, only child of Robert Crowe, Esq.

Sir Francis Ford, bart. to Eliza, only surviving daughter of the late Henry Brady, Esq.

At Paris, Hon. Col. Packenham, to Hon. Emily Stapleton, daughter of Lord le Despenser.

PROMOTIONS.

January.

Maj.-Gen. Herbert Taylor, Treasurer to her Majesty.

Sir G. Drummond, and Sir A. Campbell, Knights Commanders of the Bath.

George-William Chad, Esq. Secretary of Legation at the Court of the Netherlands.

February.

John Barrow, Esq. Consul in the provinces of Biscay and Guipuscoa.

Gen. Francis Dundas, Governor of Dumbarton Castle.

Lieut.-Gen. Baldwin Leighton, Governor of Carrickfergus.

Maj.-Gen. George Stracey Smith, Lieut.-Governor of the Province of New Brunswick.

March.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Richard Jones, Knight-Commander of the Bath.

Lieut.-Gen. Rob. Macfarlane, the same.

Major-Gen. Sir George Townsend Walker, Knight Grand Cross.

The Earl of Errol, Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Lord Combermere, Governor of Barbadoes.

Earl of Macclesfield, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Oxford.

April.

Ralph Rice, Esq. Recorder of Prince of Wales Island.

Mr. Baron Richards, Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer.

May.

May.

Sir William Garrow, Puisne Baron of the Court of Exchequer.

Sir S. Shepperd, Attorney-General.

Robert Gifford, Esq. Solicitor-General.

The Right Hon. Charles Abbot, late Speaker of the House of Commons, created Baron Colchester.

June.

The Right Hon. Charles Manners Sutton, created Speaker of the House of Commons.

J. Becket, Esq. Judge Advocate General.

Lord Strangford, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenip. at the Swedish Court.

Sir Benj. Bloomfield, Keeper of the Privy Purse, and Private Secretary to the Prince Regent.

George Manners, Esq. Consul in the State of Massachusetts.

July.

Right Hon. Edward Thornton, Envoy Extr. and Minister Plenipotentiary at the court of his Most Faithful Majesty.

Hon. Francis Reginald Forbes, Secretary of Legation.

Duke of Northumberland, Lord Lieutenant of that county.

August.

Earl Bathurst, a Knight of the Garter.

Mr. Planta, Under Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

H. Hobhouse, Esq. Under Secretary of State for the Home Department.

George Maule, Esq. Solicitor to the Treasury.

Benj. Parkhurst, Esq. Comptroller of the Customs at Antigua.

September.

Lord Talbot, a Member of the Privy Council, and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Lord Somers, Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire.

Lord William Gordon, Receiver-gen. of Cornwall.

Rev. Thomas Lee, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

October.

Charles Manners St. George, Esq. Secretary of Legation at the Court of Stockholm.

Adm. Sir George Campbell, Groom of his Majesty's Bedchamber.

November.

Alexander Ferrier, Esq. Consul for the Ports of Rotterdam, Helveot, Dordrecht, Schiedam, and the Brill.

December.

Sir William Knighton, bart. Auditor of the Duchy of Cornwall, and Secretary and Keeper of his Royal Highness's Privy Seal and Council Seal.

James Sholto Douglas, Esq. British Consul General in Morocco.

Right Hon. J. Leach, and Rt. Hon. Sir W. A'Court, sworn in of the Privy Council.

DEATHS in the Year 1817.

January.

ON the first of this month died at Berlin the celebrated chemist *M. Klaproth*.

4. Died in his 77th year *Sir Arthur Owen*, bart. late adjutant-general in the East Indies, and a colonel in the army.

13. Aged above 70, *George Harriot*, Esq. one of the magistrates of the Thames Police Office. The circumstance of his putting a close to a life of extreme agony is mentioned in our Chronicle.

26. In Grosvenor-place, *Caroline Dowager Countess of Buckinghamshire*, daughter of *William Conolly*, Esq. Her ladyship had three sons, all now dead, and one daughter, the present Viscountess Castlereagh.

27. At Bath, in her 85th year, *Mrs. Philips*, relict of *Frederick Philips*, Esq. and mother of *Lady Strangford*.

29. At Blenheim, *George the third Duke of Marlborough*, aged 78. He married in 1762 *Lady Caroline Russell*, daughter of *John Duke of Bedford*, who died in 1811. He lived chiefly as a private nobleman; and after having passed through the offices of Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the county of Oxford, Lord Chamberlain of the Household, and Lord Privy Seal, to which was annexed the Order of the Garter, he quitted public life, and devoted his days to the duties of a private station. His Grace was succeeded by his eldest son, the

Marquis of Blandford, who married the daughter of the Earl of Galloway.

At Florence Court, Fermanagh, the *Countess of Enniskillen*, daughter of the late Earl of Uxbridge.

At Pisa, the *Rt. Hon. Francis North, Earl of Guildford*, second son of *Frederick Earl of Guildford*. He was born in 1761, and succeeded his brother *George Augustus* in 1802. He married *Maria*, sixth daughter of the late *Thomas Boycott, Esq. of Shropshire*. This nobleman inherited the kindness and benevolence of his father, and was distinguished by a brilliancy of wit, seasoned by the most exhilarating cheerfulness.

February.

2. *General Carleton*, aged 85, colonel of the 2d battalion 60th foot, and great uncle to the present Lord Dorchester.

3. At Cambridge, in his 72d year, *Sir Isaac Pennington*, knt. M.D. and Regius Professor of Physic.

6. The *Rt. Hon. Catharine Anne, Lady Glenbervie*, eldest daughter of *Frederick Earl of Guildford*, and sister to the late earl.

At Paris, *Lady Penelope Shuttleworth Brooke*, wife of *Sir Joseph Brooke*.

At Paris, *Col. W. Fenwick*, commanding engineer at Portsmouth.

At Rufford Hall, Lancashire, the *Lady of Sir Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh*, bart.

8. At Pisa, in Italy, where he

he had gone in the hope of improving his health, *Francis Horner*, Esq. M. P. He was educated at the high school and the university of Edinburgh, where he pursued his studies with unremitting attention; and he was first called to the Scotch bar, and afterwards to that of England. He was first brought into parliament by Lord Henry Petty (since Marquis of Lansdown) his former fellow student; and he afterwards sat in three parliaments: his last seat that of St. Mawes, in Cornwall. After resigning his first employment in the state, that of commissioner for the liquidation of the Carnatic claims, which he might still have retained, he entered the lists as an able debater; and by strict integrity of conduct he fixed a high reputation, even among those members who did not concur with him in his principles. With a strong understanding, extensive and accurate knowledge, a style of eloquence plain and direct, without a particle of vanity or presumption, he bid fair to attain eminence as a public character, when he was carried off by the merciless inroads of a consumption.

In her 89th year, the *Dowager Lady Carew*.

11. *Sir John Palmer*, bart. aged 82, who was long a representative in parliament for the county of Leicester, and was distinguished for his faithful discharge of duty in every relation of life.

George William Evelyn, *Earl of Rothes*, one of the sixteen peers of Scotland, and colonel of the Surrey yeomanry.

14. At Marseilles, *Lieut.-gen.*

the Hon Sir John Abercromby, M.P. and colonel of the 53d foot.

14. *The Hon. Euphemia Stewart*, widow of William S. Esq. and sister of the late Earl of Seaforth.

15. Near Dublin, *Rear-Admiral Sir Digby Dent*.

18. At Ugbrooke Park, the *Hon. Robert Clifford*, third son of Hugh Lord Clifford.

24. At Hampton-court palace, *Lady Henrietta Cecilia Johnston*, widow of Lieut.-Col. James J. and daughter of John the first Earl of Delawar.

March.

9. In her 75th year, *Jane*, *Countess of Uxbridge*, married to the late Earl of Uxbridge in 1767. She was mother to the present Marquis of Anglesey.

13. At Ipswich, *Sir William Innes*, bart. who was a volunteer in the Life Guards of George II. at the battle of Dettingen, and is supposed to have reached his hundredth year.

18. *Charles Combe*, M.D. F.R.S. and S.A. aged 74. He was early engaged in the study of the medalic science, which introduced him to the acquaintance of Dr. William Hunter, who had made a large and valuable collection of medals. Of those, two publications were made by Dr. Combe, who planned the finishing of the whole, when the death of Dr. Hunter put an end to the design. He afterwards undertook, in conjunction with the Rev. Henry Homer, a Variorum edition of Horace, which, after the death of the former, he brought through the press in 1793. The principal line of the profession followed

lowed by Dr. Combe was that of midwifery, in which he obtained considerable success.

31. *Right Hon. Lady Francis Douglas*, wife of Hon. John D.

April.

3. In his 18th year, the *Hon. James Stanley*, son of the Earl and Countess of Derby.

7. In Ireland *Lady Sarah Price*, wife to Sir Nicholas P. and sister of the Marquis Camden.

10. *Lady Curtis*, relict of the late Adm. Sir Roger Curtis, bart.

11. In his 60th year, the *Rev. William Beloe*, rector of Allhallows, London Wall, &c. and the author of numerous works, of which the principal was a translation of Herodotus. He was also joint proprietor with Mr. Nares, of the *British Critick*.

15. At Bath, in his 73d year, *Right Hon. Sir A. Thomson*, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Exchequer.

18. *The Right Hon. Thomas Carmichael*, Earl of Hyndford, in his 60th year.

24. In his 77th year, *Sir Thomas Maynard Hesilrige* bart.

28. In Berners Street, in his 61st year, *Sir Jacob Henry Astley*, bart. many years M. P. for Norfolk.

May.

1. *Right Hon. Lady Edward O'Bryen*, at Clifton, near Bristol.

At Aston Hall, Yorksh. *Right Hon. Lady Mary Foljambe*, relict of Francis Ferrand F. Esq. and sister to the present Earl of Scarborough.

16. At Bath, *The Right Hon. Charlotte Newcomen*, Viscountess

Newcomen, Baroness Newcomen, of Mosstown, in her own right. She married Sir William Gleadowe, Knight of the Shire of Longford, by whom she had several children.

23. At Gort, county of Galway, in his 76th year, *The Rt. Hon. John Prendergast Smyth*, Visc. Gort, Governor of the county of Galway, and Chamberlain of the city of Limerick.

24. At Clifton, *Lady Cosby*, wife to Lieut.-Gen. Sir H. Cosby.

27. At Great Melton Hall, Norfolk, aged 86, *Sir John Lombe*, bart.

29. In Grosvenor Square, the *Countess Dowager of Leitrim*.

At Enfield, aged 74, *William Saunders*, M.D. F.R.S. & F.S.A. senior physician to Guy's Hospital. The professional treatises published by this respectable practitioner were the following: *Treatise on Mercury in Venereal Cases*; *An Answer to Geach and Alcock on the Devonshire Colic*; *Observationes de Antimonio*; *A Treatise on the Red Peruvian Bark*; *A Treatise on the Mephitic Acid*; *On the Structure, Œconomy, and Diseases of the Liver*; *Oratio Harveyi, Instituto habita in Theatro Collegii Regalis Medicorum Londinensis*; *On the Chemical History and Medical Powers of some of the most celebrated Mineral Waters, with Practical Remarks on Aqueous Regimen, to which are added Observations on the Use of Cold and Warm Bathing*; *On the Hepatitis of India*.

June.

13. At Edgeworth's Town, Ireland, *Richard Lovell Edgeworth*, Esq. aged 74. He was formerly a mem-

a member of the Irish Parliament, in which he distinguished himself by a warm attachment to the interests of Ireland, and a zealous opposition to what he regarded as the abuses of the administration. He employed his leisure time in perfecting several mechanical inventions, and in reducing to a science the construction of wheel carriages and roads; and he was likewise the author of many valuable papers in the transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, and other Dublin societies. He also wrote several occasional pieces in different branches of literature; and took much pleasure in cultivating the genius of his admirable daughter, Miss Edgeworth, whom he joined in some of her compositions. Mr. Edgeworth was married a fourth time, and left his wife a widow with a young family.

16. At Knowsley, *Right Hon. Lady Stanley*.

27. *Lady Suttie*, wife of Sir James Suttie, Bart.

30. At Dover, the *Rev. John Lyon*, Minister of St. Mary the Virgin in Dover, who distinguished himself by his writings on the subject of Electricity, in which he became a strenuous advocate for the permeability of glass to electricity. He also composed a History of Dover, with a short account of the Cinque Ports.

At Dresden, *Werner*, the celebrated mineralogist.

July.

8. In his 63d year, the *Right Hon. George Ponsonby*, M. P. for Wicklow. He was second son to the Speaker of the Irish House of

Commons, and was called to the bar of that country in 1780. From the Rockingham administration he obtained the lucrative office in, 1782, of first counsel to the Commissioners of the Revenue; and he was soon after introduced to the Irish Parliament, but did not attempt to distinguish himself there till he was removed from his office in 1788 by the Marquis of Buckingham, Lord Lieutenant. Mr. Ponsonby then acted with vigour in the opposition, till the accession of his friends to power raised him to the dignity of Chancellor of Ireland in 1806. This post he again lost on the removal of himself and his friends from the administration; and from that time he has been considered as a leader of opposition in the House of Commons. His language and manners were those of a gentleman; and disdaining a flowery or figurative diction, he only aimed at stating arguments fully and forcibly, in which he often succeeded. He was married in 1781 to Lady Mary Butler, eldest daughter of the second Earl of Belvedere, by whom he left several children.

9. At Brighton, in her 87th year, *Lady Ann Murray*, sister to the late Earl of Mansfield.

10. At Northumberland House, in his 75th year, *Hugh, Duke of Northumberland*. His Grace succeeded his father Hugh, the late Duke, 1786. He married in 1762 Lady Ann Stuart, third daughter of John Earl of Bute, by whom he had no issue, and the marriage was dissolved by act of Parliament in 1779. In the same year he married Frances Julia Burrell, third daughter of Peter

Burrell, Esq., by whom he had five daughters and two sons. His eldest son, Earl Percy, was called to the House of Lords some time since as Baron Percy. The second was lately created a Peer by the title of Lord Prudhoe. The Duke of Northumberland was distinguished by the most munificent liberality, and his loss will be severely felt. His funeral in Westminster Abbey excited much interest, public and private.

13. At Eglinton Castle the *Rt. Hon. Hugh Montgomery, Earl of Eglinton*.

14. At Bath, in his 54th year, *Right Hon. James Everard, ninth Lord Arundel of Wardour Castle*. He left sons and daughters by both his wives, and is succeeded by his eldest son, James Everard Arundel.

15. At Paris, aged 53, *Madame de Stael-Holstein*, daughter of the celebrated Neckar, and herself a lady much distinguished in the literary world. She married the Baron de Stael Holstein, Swedish Ambassador at Paris, and has left a son and a daughter, the latter married to the Duke de Broglie.

27. At Heytesbury House, in his 70th year, *Sir William Pearce-Ashe A'Court*, several times M. P. of Heytesbury.

August.

1. Near Dublin, in his 88th year, *Rt. Hon. David Latouche*, many years one of the Irish Privy Council, and for 40 years a member of the parliament of Ireland. He was senior partner in the banking-house of Latouche and Co., Dublin, and left several children.

5. At Wolsey-hall, Staffordshire, *Sir William Wolsey*, bart. aged 77.

6. *Frank Sayres*, M.D. at Norwich, in his 55th year, well known and much esteemed by a circle of literary friends, who received much pleasure from his poetical publications. His medical character was simply nominal.

10. The *Rev. John Prior Estlin*, LL. D. aged 71, a native of Hinckley, Leicestershire, was educated at the academy of Warrington, and during 46 years was the minister of Lewin's Mead, Bristol, during the greatest part of which time he conducted a school of much repute. He was the author of several works on religious topics, which were principally intended to enforce the duties of Christianity, and to oppose infidelity and irreligion. Few persons have met with more general respect, even from men most opposite to him in political and religious opinions.

11. *Major-General Sir Montagu Roger Burgoyne, Bart.*, of Sutton Park, Bedfordshire.

20. At Amsterdam, the *Dowager Marchioness of Sligo*, youngest daughter of the late Earl Howe, and united some years ago to her second husband, Sir William Scott.

22. *Right Hon. Frances Lady Redesdale*, daughter of the late Earl of Egmont, in her 51st year.

23. By a fall of her horse in a gig, the *Hon. Mrs. Hugo Meynell*, sister of the Marchioness of Hertford.

24. At Hern-Hill, near Dulwich, *Signora Storace*, an eminent singer and actress.

28. *Sir Joseph Mawbey*, bart.

31. At

31. At Plymouth Dock, in his 70th year, *Sir John Thomas Duckworth*, bart. admiral of the White Squadron, Commander-in-chief on the Plymouth station, and M. P. for New Romney. This admiral, who was the son of a clergyman of a respectable family in Devonshire, fulfilled his duties in the navy with great credit, though the principal service which he performed without a superior was a victory over a French squadron of five ships of the line in St. Domingo Bay, in 1806. He was twice married, and left issue by each of his wives.

At Twickenham, aged 75, *Viscountess Howe*, widow of William Viscount Howe, and daughter of the Rt. Hon. William Conolly, of Castle-Town, Ireland.

September.

1. In Dublin, of a typhus fever, the *Hon. Judge Osborne*, fourth Justice of the Court of King's Bench in Ireland.

12. At the Cape of Good Hope, *Thomas Sheridan, Esq.* eldest son of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, by his first wife, Miss Linley. He left a widow and several children.

At Bath, the *Rt. Hon. Sir John M'Mahon*, bart. a Privy Counsellor, and late Private Secretary and Keeper of the Privy-purse to the Prince Regent.

17. In her 67th year, at Ponton House, near Grantham, *Lady Kent*, relict of Sir Charles Kent, bart.

18. In Serjeant's Inn, Fleet Street, *William Charles Wells*, M.D. F.R.S. one of the physicians to St. Thomas's Hospital, aged 60. Dr. Wells was a native of Charlestown,

South Carolina, descended from Scottish parents; and after a medical education, conducted partly in Charlestown, and partly at Edinburgh and London, he settled in the latter place for the practice of his profession. It was a considerable time before he met with encouragement; nor indeed does it appear that his employment ever rose higher than a competence; but his turn was chiefly to reading and meditation, and he obtained the character of a perspicuous, vigorous, and elegant writer. Of his philosophical works, Experiments and Observations on Vision, and an essay upon Dew, are among the most distinguished. Almost all his writings upon medical subjects are contained in the second and third volumes of Transactions of a society for the promotion of medical and chirurgical knowledge.

22. In Hanover-square, aged 72, *Sir James Earl*, Master of the Royal College of Surgeons, and many years senior surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and surgeon extraordinary to his Majesty and household. Sir James rose to high distinction as a professional writer, and his works give proof of the result of accurate observation and extensive practice.

25. At Interlaken, Switzerland,
Lord Melgund, eldest son of the
Earl of Minto.

October.

2. In his 85th year, Alexander Monro, M.D. F.R.S. Professor of Medicine, Anatomy, and Surgery, in the University of Edinburgh. Succeeding his father, the celebrated professor of Anatomy in

L 2 Edin-

Edinburgh, he distinguished himself by several publications, of which the following were the most considerable : — Observations on the Structure and Functions of the Nervous System. The Structure and Physiology of Fishes. A Description of all the Bursæ Mucosæ of the Human Body. Experiments on the Nervous System with Opium and Metalline Substances. Three Treatises on the Brain, the Eye, and the Ear. Observations on Crural Hernia. The Morbid Anatomy of the Gullet, the Stomach, and the Intestines. Observations on the Thoracic Duct.

8. The *Hon. Henry Erskine*, brother to Lord Buchan and to Lord Erskine, and long the leader and ornament of the Scotch bar. He was considered as one of the heads of the whigs in Scotland; and his powers in conversation were not less distinguished for their brilliancy, than his professional talents for their soundness and sagacity.

14. Aged near 70, the *Right Hon. John Philpot Curran*. He was a native of the county of Cork, and after completing his education at Dublin college, he was called to the Irish bar, and by his splendid talents was soon brought into notice. He obtained a silk gown under the administration of the Duke of Portland; and in 1784 he acquired a seat in the Irish House of Commons, in which, by his sportive humour, he seconded the efforts of the popular party in favour of the national freedom and independence. As a lawyer he was not particularly distinguished by the extent of his knowledge, or the depth of his re-

searches; but there were scarcely any on the Irish bench who equalled him in addressing a jury. Some of his speeches in defence of his unfortunate countrymen have been published, and are favourable proofs of the warmth of his eloquence. During the viceroyalty of the Duke of Bedford, he was made Master of the Rolls, in which he distinguished himself for clear and correct decisions. In 1815 he accepted a pension of 3,000*l.* a year, settled upon him on resigning his office; after which he passed the rest of his life chiefly near London.

15. In Bedfordshire, the *Right Hon. St. Andrew Lord St. John, Baron St. John of Bletso*, in his 59th year. He represented the county of Bedford for nearly 25 years previous to the death of his elder brother, whom he succeeded. He married the eldest daughter of Sir Charles Rouse Boughton, by whom he left a son and heir, and other children.

16. At Soleure, in Switzerland, *Gen. Thaddeus Kosciusko*, the brave but unfortunate defender of the liberty of Poland.

November.

6. To the inexpressible grief of a whole nation, died in child-birth, the *Princess Charlotte Augusta*, daughter of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and consort of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg. The particulars of this lamentable event will be found recorded in the pages of our Chronicle.

7. At Windsor, in his 91st year, *John Andre de Luc*, a member of the Royal Societies of London and Paris,

Paris, &c. He was born at Geneva, and was for many years reader to her Majesty. The great object of his study was the investigation of the arrangement and composition of the globe, in which it was his purpose to prove the evidence of the scriptures by plain and demonstrable facts. In pursuit of this intention he visited most of the countries of Europe, where he made himself known to most of the men of science of the age. The fruit of his different inquiries were a treatise on Geology, and six volumes of Geological travels. For several years he was confined to his room by the infirmities of age, but his scientific ardour remained unabated.

12. In the 72d year of her age, *Dame Mary Evelyn*, widow of Sir Frederick Evelyn of Wootton in Surrey, bart. and only issue of William Turton, Esq.

14. At Mr. Coke's, in Norfolk, in her 42d year, the *Right Hon. Countess of Albemarle*, after a premature labour. She was the fourth

daughter of Edward Lord de Clifford, and of fifteen children eleven survive her.

17. At Canterbury, in his 62d year, *Sir Robert Salisbury*, bart.

24. At Edinburgh, *Sir Patrick Inglis*, bart.

December.

12. At Edinburgh, *Sir J. Henderson*, bart.

18. At Cambridge, in his 25th year, the *Hon. Charles Fox Maitland*, youngest son of the Earl of Lauderdale.

25. At Hampton Court Palace, *Right Hon. Lady Caroline Herbert*, relict of Charles Herbert, Esq. and sister to the late Duke of Manchester.

At the rectory of St. Paul's, Deptford, the *Rev. Dr. Charles Burney*, an excellent scholar, and a truly benevolent divine.

28. At Oakley-Park, near Ludlow, in her 84th year, *Margaret Lady Clive*, relict of Robert first Lord Clive.

SHERIFFS

Appointed by the Prince Regent in Council, January 1817.

Bedfordshire, S. Crawley, of Stockwood, Esq.
 Berkshire, W. Stone, of Englefield, Esq.
 Buckinghamshire, G. Carrington, of Missenden Abbey, Esq.
 Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, postponed.
 Cheshire, Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton Priory, bart.
 Cumberland, Sir Philip Musgrave, of Eden-hall, bart.
 Derbyshire, T. Hallows, of Glasswell, Esq.
 Devonshire, Sir Wal. Roberts, of Courtland, bart.
 Dorsetshire, Sir W. Oglander, of Parnham, bart.
 Essex, John Hall, of Woodford, Esq.
 Gloucestershire, Sir H. Cann Lippencott, of Stoke Bishop, bart.
 Herefordshire, Tomkyns Dew, of Whitney-court, esq.
 Herts, Edmund Morris, of Charleywood, Esq.
 Kent, W. A. Moreland, Lamberhurst, Esq.
 Lancashire, R. Townley Parker, Esq.
 Leicestershire, Clement Winstanley, of Braunston, Esq.
 Lincolnshire, Sir Robert Sheffield, of Normanby-hall, bart.
 Monmouthshire, Sir Robert Thompson, of Tintern-abbey, bart.
 Norfolk, Henry Negus Burrowghes, of Burlingham, Esq.
 Northamptonshire, Sir C. Knightley, of Fawsley-park, bart.
 Northumberland, Sir J. T. Clavering, of Harwood-Skeels, bart.
 Nottinghamshire, T. Blackbourn Hildyard, of Plentham, Esq.
 Oxfordshire, Walter Perry, Esq.
 Rutlandshire, T. F. Baines, of Morcott, Esq.
 Shropshire, W. O. Gore, of Porkington, Esq.
 Somersetshire, Philip J. Miles, of Wraxnel, Esq.
 Staffordshire, T. Kirkpatrick Hall, of Hollybush, Esq.
 County of Southampton, J. Fleming, of Stoneham-park, Esq.
 Suffolk, Sir R. Harland, of Nacton, bart.
 Surrey, T. Lett, jun. of Dulwich, Esq.
 Sussex, James C. Strode, of Frant, Esq.
 Warwickshire, The Hon. H. Verney, of Compton Verney.
 Wiltshire, John Hungerford Penruddock, of Compton, Esq.
 Worcestershire, John Taylor, of Strensham-court, Esq.
 Yorkshire, Sir W. M. Milner, of Nun-Appleton, bart.

WALES.

Carmarthenshire, G. Lloyd, of Brunant, Esq.
 Pembrokeshire, C. Mathias, of Langwarren, Esq.

Cardigan-

Cardiganshire, J. Davies, of Glanrhocca, Esq.
Glamorganshire, Thomas Bates Rous, of Court-yr-alla, Esq.
Breconshire, C. C. Clifton, of Tuy Mawr, Esq.
Radnorshire, Henry Powel, of Pen Llan, Esq.
Merionethshire, J. Evans, of Hendremorfydd, Esq.
Carnarvonshire, Daniel Vawdry, of Plasgwynnant, Esq.
Anglesey, Rice Thomas, of Cemaes, Esq.
Montgomeryshire, R. Price, of Gunley, Esq.
Denbighshire, Pierce Wynne York, of Dyffrynaled, Esq.
Flintshire, W. Rigby, of Norton Hall, Esq.

APPOINTED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Cornwall, W. A. Harris, of Keneggy.

APPENDIX TO CHRONICLE.

ARTICLES FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION

Between His Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies, together with a separate and additional Article thereunto annexed.

Art. 1. **H**IS Britannic Majesty consents that all the privileges and exemptions which his subjects, their commerce, and shipping, have enjoyed, and do enjoy in the dominions, ports, and domains of his Sicilian Majesty, in virtue of the Treaty of Peace and Commerce, concluded at Madrid, the 10th (28th) of May, 1667, between Great Britain and Spain; of the Treaties of Commerce between the same Powers, signed at Utrecht the 9th of December, 1713, and at Madrid the 13th of December, 1715; and of the Convention concluded at Utrecht the 25th of February, 1712 (March 8, 1713,) between Great Britain and the kingdom of Sicily, shall be abolished; and it is agreed upon in consequence, between their said Britannic and Sicilian Majesties, their heirs and successors, that the said privileges and exemptions, whether of per-

sons or of flag and shipping, are and shall continue for ever abolished.

Art. 2. His Sicilian Majesty engages not to continue, nor hereafter to grant to the subjects of any other Power whatever, the privileges and exemptions abolished by the present Convention.

Art. 3. His Sicilian Majesty promises that the subjects of his Britannic Majesty shall not be subjected within his dominions to a more rigorous system of examination and search by the officers of customs, than that to which the subjects of his said Sicilian Majesty are liable.

Art. 4. His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies promises that British commerce in general, and the British subjects who carry it on, shall be treated throughout his dominions upon the same footing as the most favoured nations, not only with respect to the persons and property of the said British subjects, but also with regard to every species of article in which they may traffic, and the taxes or other charges payable on the said articles, or on the shipping in which the importations shall be made.

Art.

Art. 5. With respect to the personal privileges to be enjoyed by the subjects of his Britannic Majesty in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, his Sicilian Majesty promises that they shall have a free and undoubted right to travel, and to reside, in the territories and dominions of his said Majesty, subject to the same precautions of Police which are practised towards the most favoured nations. They shall be entitled to occupy dwellings and warehouses, and to dispose of their personal property of every kind and description, by sale, gift, exchange, or will, and in any other way whatever, without the smallest loss, or hinderance being given them on that head. They shall not be obliged to pay, under any pretence whatever, other taxes or rates than those which are paid, or that hereafter may be paid, by the most favoured nations in the dominions of his said Sicilian Majesty. They shall be exempt from all military service, whether by land or sea ; their dwellings, warehouses, and every thing belonging or appertaining thereto for objects of commerce or residence, shall be respected. They shall not be subjected to any vexatious search or visits. No arbitrary examination or inspection of their books, papers, or accounts, shall be made, under the pretence of the supreme authority of the State, but these shall alone be executed by the legal sentence of the competent tribunals. His Sicilian Majesty engages on all these occasions to guarantee to the subjects of his Britannic Majesty who shall reside in his states and dominions the preservation of their property and personal security, in the same

manner as those are guaranteed to his subjects, and to all foreigners belonging to the most favoured and most highly privileged nations.

Art. 6. According to the tenour of the articles 1 and 2 of this treaty, his Sicilian Majesty engages not to declare null and void the privileges and exemptions which actually exist in favour of British commerce within his dominions, till the same day, and except by the same act, by which the privileges and exemptions, whatsoever they are, of all other nations, shall be declared null and void within the same.

Art. 7. His Sicilian Majesty promises, from the date when the general abolition of the privileges according to the articles 1, 2, and 6 shall take place, to make a reduction of 10 per cent. upon the amount of the duties, payable according to the tariff in force the 1st of January, 1816, upon the total of the merchandize or productions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, her colonies, possessions, and dependencies, imported into the States of his said Sicilian Majesty, according to the tenour of article 4 of the present convention ; it being understood that nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the King of the Two Sicilies from granting, if he shall think proper, the same reduction of duty to other foreign nations.

Art. 8. The subjects of the Ionian islands shall, in consequence of their being actually under the immediate protection of his Britannic Majesty, enjoy all the advantages which are granted to the commerce and to the subjects of
Great

Great Britain by the present treaty; it being well understood that, to prevent all abuses, and to prove its identity, every Ionian vessel shall be furnished with a patent, signed by the Lord High Commissioner, or his representative.

Art. 9. The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications thereof exchanged in London, within the space of six months, or sooner if possible.

Done at London, the 26th of September, 1816.

(L.S.) CASTLEREAGH.

(L.S.) CASTELCICALA.

Separate and Additional Article.

In order to avoid all doubt respecting the reduction upon the duties in favour of British commerce, which his Sicilian Majesty has promised in the 7th Art. of the Convention, signed this day between his Britannic Majesty and his Sicilian Majesty, it is declared by this present separate and additional article, that by the concession of ten per cent of diminution, it is understood that, in case the amount of the duty should be twenty per cent. upon the value of the merchandize, the effect of the reduction of ten per cent. is to reduce the duty from twenty to eighteen; and so for other cases in proportion. And that for the articles which are not taxed *ad valorem* in the tariff, the reduction of the duty shall be proportionate; that is to say, a deduction of a tenth part upon the amount of the sum payable shall be granted.

The present separate and additional article shall have the same force and validity as if it had been inserted, word for word, in the

Convention of this day—it shall be ratified, and the ratification thereof shall be exchanged at the same time.

In witness whereof, &c.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE.

India-Board, Nov. 5, 1817.

Despatches have been received at the East-India House, addressed to the Secret Committee by the Governor in Council at Bombay, enclosing reports of the measures adopted for suppressing the insurrection raised in the dominions of the Peishwa, by Trim-buckjee Dainglia, of which reports the following are copies or extracts:—

Extract from a Dispatch from the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, the resident at the Court of the Peishwa, to the Governor-General, dated Poona, April 7.

Since I had last the honour to address your lordship, Trim-buckjee has gone on increasing his force as usual. He has persons scattered through the villages for a considerable extent of country, recruiting for him, but finds some difficulty in raising men; some refuse to join him, unless he will show a warrant from the Peishwa, in whose name he recruits; while others join him with less difficulty, but desert whenever there is any report of an attack. Trim-buckjee himself remains separate from his troops, and often changes his ground. He is now stated to have retired across the Kistma, towards Darwar, but the fact is uncertain. His troops are now chiefly in the district of Jut, between Punder-
poor

poor and Bejapoor; troops also still continue to be raised in Candeish.

Copy of a Dispatch from Captain George Sydenham, Political Agent in Berar, to Mr. Elphinstone (no date), with an Enclosure.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward to you a copy of Captain Davis's report of a very brilliant and successful attack which he lately made on the insurgent horse in Candeish.

As the enemy have left the frontier, the troops engaged in the attack have for the present been recalled to Aurungabad. The Risala, which was on the way to join them, has been stationed at Kannur; and the post at the Gootalla Ghaut in its front strengthened by a company of regular infantry. My hirkarrahs are watching the enemy's movements; and if they should again approach the frontier, the Nizam's troops will be reinforced.

I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE SYDENHAM,
Agent at Berar.

Camp, April, 21.

SIR,—I have the honour to report, that in pursuance of the intention expressed in my letter to your address of the 19th instant, I put the infantry in motion for the Gootalla Ghaut at three o'clock that afternoon, following myself with about 600 horse at four o'clock, and reached Saegaon, a village belonging to Moorteeza Yor Jung, about six miles from

the foot of the Ghaut, at ten o'clock at night, where I waited one hour to collect the men, who had scattered, owing to the badness of the Ghaut. By the * patell of this village I was informed, that the enemy had stationed mounted videttes at every village between that place and their camp, which was about 12 coss distant; but there was a road leading to it through the jungle, frequented only by † Brinjarries, by which I might advance unobserved, and he offered to conduct me. I accordingly mounted him on a horse, and proceeding by the route he pointed out, arrived at the village they were reported to be encamped at, ten coss distant, a little after day-break, when I found that they had marched from thence the evening before to Gunnaispoor, about two coss. I advanced with five or six horsemen to reconnoitre, leaving orders with Captain Pedlar to bring up the horse, and desiring Captain Pedlar to leave the knapsacks of the infantry in a ravine, and to follow with the utmost expedition. I had advanced about a mile, when I discovered one of the patrols of the enemy, whom I immediately pursued, and took two of them prisoners; a third man escaped through the jungle to the left: from the two prisoners I ascertained that the enemy had their horses ready saddled, but had not received any information of our approach. I sent back to desire Captain Pedlar to advance at a brisk pace; he overtook me in a short time, and we pushed on at

* The Patell, or Potail, is the head man of a village, who collects the rents, and has the general superintendence of its concerns.

† Brinjarries collect grain for the army.

a smart canter, and in ascending a rising ground perceived the enemy drawn up to receive us, their right flank protected by a strong * gurhee, into which they had thrown some infantry, and their front covered by a † nullah with steep banks. As they considerably outnumbered us, being about two thousand strong, and chiefly armed with matchlocks, I determined upon instantly charging them with the sabre, and accordingly ordered the men to sling their matchlocks, and advance in as compact a body as the nature of the ground, which was covered with low jungle, would admit of; on receiving this order our line advanced at full speed, every man endeavouring to be first on the enemy; they fired a few shots from their matchlocks as we were crossing the nullah, which fortunately passed over us without doing any injury. The instant we got over the nullah the enemy broke and fled in all directions, and were pursued upwards of three coss, sustaining a loss of about 200 men killed, besides a great number of wounded: amongst the latter was a person who appeared to be a chief of consequence, called by his own men Appah Sohab, and who when wounded threw down his spear, and being well mounted made his escape. Finding the enemy by this time completely dispersed, I ordered the pursuit to cease, and the men to return to the enemy's camp.

Having been wounded during the pursuit, I had dismounted to tie up my arm, when I was in-

formed that a fresh body of the enemy was coming down on our right: I ordered Capt. Robinson, who had arrived with the infantry during the pursuit, to fall in with his men. I mounted, and collecting as many of the horse as I could, advanced with the infantry in column left in front, and the horse formed in line on the left of the infantry, about five miles, when I found Risaldar Alum Alie Khan, and first Jemedar Meer Suffdeer Ah, had collected about 200 men on the banks of a nullah, with whom they kept the enemy in check, by a fire from their matchlocks: the instant they saw our line advancing they went off at speed in a north-westerly direction; and our horses being completely jaded by the length of the march and pursuit, I considered it useless to follow them.

A few prisoners were taken, from whom I learnt that the body of horse collected, which they stated to be 2000, was commanded by Godajee Row, a nephew of Trimbuckjee Dainglia, and that Trimbuckjee himself was shortly expected to join them with a large reinforcement. The body of horse which threatened to renew the combat were said to consist of 500, which had been detached to a village at some distance, with about 300 of the fugitives who had rallied. One of the prisoners also stated that they had been joined, the evening before, by about 150 horse from the southward; that a body of Arabs, from Mulla-gaon, was expected in two days; and that Godajee Row Dainglia had written to Setoo for assistance,

* Gurhees are mud forts; some of them are surrounded with ditches.

† Nullah, a rivulet.

who had promised to send him a large body of Pindarries.

I am happy to say the loss on our part was as little as can be expected; and I should imagine it cannot exceed 10 men killed, and 20 or 25 wounded; amongst the latter, I regret to state, is Captain Pedlar, severely.

I shall have the honour to forward a return * of the killed and wounded as soon as it can be prepared.

I cannot close this despatch without expressing the high sense I entertain of the assistance I received from Capt. Pedlar and Lieut. Rind, who joined me as a volunteer on this occasion; the former of whom had charge of the right, and the latter of the left wing. I have much pleasure in assuring you, that although we had marched upwards of 50 miles before the attack commenced, not a man of the infantry had fallen in the rear; and I feel convinced, from the eagerness they displayed on the occasion, that if an opportunity had offered they would have afforded me every assistance.

The behaviour of both officers and men composing the detachment of reformed horse with me in this affair exceeded my most sanguine expectations. There was not a single officer who did not distinguish himself, and they were most gallantly supported by their men.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EVAN DAVIES, Capt.
Commanding the Reformed Horse.

Captain George Sydenham,
Political Agent in Berar.

Copy of a Despatch from Colonel Lionel Smith, of his Majesty's 65th Regiment, commanding the Poona Subsidiary Force, to Mr. Elphinstone, with three enclosures.

Camp, Guardoon, April 23.

SIR,—I have the highest satisfaction in laying before you two despatches which I received late last night from Major H. Smith, of the 1st battalion 14th regiment Madras Native Infantry, commanding a detachment of six companies, composed of Bombay and Madras troops, which had been sent out from the reserve against a large body of horse in the service of Trimbuckjee Dainglia, and announcing the result of his persevering exertions in completely putting the whole to rout, killing and wounding about 70 men, making some prisoners, and capturing a quantity of baggage and arms, and many horses.

I cannot sufficiently praise the excellent conduct of Major Smith and his detachment, and trust their services on this occasion may prove acceptable to the Right Honourable the Governor General.

I have, &c.

LIONEL SMITH, Colonel.

P. S. I have the further honour to enclose a copy of orders I considered due to the detachment.

L. SMITH.

The Honourable
Mr. Elphinstone.

Camp at Pattre, April 18, 2 a. m.

SIR,—As you are already apprized of my having marched from camp with a detachment, consisting of 600 rank and file,

* Not yet received.

on the evening of the 12th instant, in pursuit of a body of horse of suspicious character, which by report amounted to 5000, I proceed to detail my movements accordingly.

After marching the greater part of that night, I reached Cambergaum on the Beemah on the morning of the 13th, when I fortunately succeeded in falling into the track of the fugitives, who had taken the direction of the Carrungee Ghaut, east of Nugger. On my arrival at the top of the pass, at 8 p. m. on the evening of the 15th, I found the party had gone down it the evening before, and though I was not disposed to relax for a moment in the pursuit, yet the difficulties I had to surmount, from the extreme bad state of the roads, winding over hills, and through stony by-paths, induced me to halt for a few hours, to refresh the men, who appeared much fatigued. At two a. m. however, of the 16th, I descended the Ghaut, and did not reach the village of Sirsee, which lies at the bottom, until broad day-break; there I gained information of their having struck into the great road to Toka, though I was previously assured that they were directing their course to Pictim on the Goodavery, with the intention of crossing at that place. I halted again at Moaz, on the Toka-road, to give the detachment rest, with a determination to make a final effort to overtake the fugitives, if possible, before they crossed the river: while here I received information of their having again deviated from their route, and gone to Gareeagaum, due west of that place, and eight coss from

Moaz: we were again in motion at five p. m.; and on my arrival at Gareeagaum, I learnt that they had halted there the night before. Having satisfied myself of the correctness of this information, I continued my route to the westward; and, although nearly two hours were lost by our guides taking the detachment a wrong road, yet I conceived that there was still a possibility of coming up to the pursued before day-break of the 17th. In this supposition, I am happy to say, I was not deceived, for at three o'clock I instructed two of my commissioned and non-commissioned confidential officers to enter a village in disguise, who seized upon a man, whom I afterwards compelled, by threats, to conduct us to the Mahratta camp, which I had reason to suppose was about four or five miles off.

During the time we were going this distance I made the necessary arrangements for an attack in three divisions, by the two in front, consisting of the flank companies of the 14th Madras, and two companies of the 3d Bombay Native Infantry, under Captains Smyth and Deschamps, diverging from the head of the column to the right and left on entering the encampment, and by directing the 3d division, two companies of the 2d Bombay Native Infantry, under Capt. Spears, to move steadily into its centre without breaking, with a view to this division becoming a point upon which the others might rally in case of necessity.

On coming within two miles of the village of Pattre, the forces of the encampment were clearly discernible, upon which the column

moved

moved forward with a hastened step, and shortly before day-light entered the enclosures of the village. It was then that we plainly perceived that the Mahratta or Pindarry horse were either mounted or mounting for a march: under these circumstances no time was to be lost, and being then only a few paces, as I supposed, from their rear picquet, I directed Lieutenant Beach to give them a volley from the front rank of the leading division, having previously ordered the front ranks only of the leading divisions of the 3d and 14th to load: this was accordingly done; and the column immediately after rushed forward to the charge. The horse fled in all directions, leaving fifty or sixty killed and wounded on the ground. They were pursued for some distance, when the exhausted state of the men, and the scattered order which they were necessarily obliged to assume for a pursuit, induced me to concentrate my little force; and I was the more persuaded of the propriety of this measure from observing considerable bodies of horse apparently well organized, in commanding situations on our flanks. This arrangement, I presume, induced them to draw off; nor did I deem it right or expedient to continue a pursuit after a fresh body of horse, with infantry jaded and exhausted from our long marches, continued for five successive days and nights.

At ten or eleven a. m. we were called to arms, by the re-appearance of a body of about 200 well-mounted horse, in promiscuous order, who, after firing a few shots from their matchlocks at the

party brought out to keep them in check, retired.

I omitted to mention before, that this body of horse, which could not have been less than 4,000, murdered Lieut. Warre, of the Madras artillery, and his sepoy guard, at the village of Soome, on the evening of the 16th, a few hours prior to my passing through it; and that they plundered all the smaller unprotected villages on their route from the southward to Pattre.

Some baggage, a quantity of arms, and from 100 to 150 horses of different descriptions, were left upon the ground; the greatest part of which were pillaged by the villagers in the neighbourhood during the pursuit, &c.

I am happy to add, that we met with no casualties, with the exception of one non-commissioned officer of the 2d Bombay Native Infantry wounded.

Had we not unfortunately been led out of the route by the guides, as before mentioned, we should in all probability have found the enemy less prepared for flight, and consequently have been enabled to give a better account of them; as it is, however, I hope you will give me credit when I assure you, that every exertion was made by both officers and men for the public service; and I feel great pleasure in having this opportunity of bearing testimony to the cheerfulness with which they bore the fatigues, and the zeal and alacrity with which the officers performed their several duties.

I estimate the distance traversed by the detachment to be about 150 miles, including the morning
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it marched with the camp; and during the last 24 hours it actually marched 41 miles, not including the pursuit.

In concluding, I beg you will excuse the prolixity of this report, and have the honour to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

H. SMITH,

Major 14th,

Commanding detachment.

Camp, Soonie, April 19.

SIR,—I have the honour to report, that since my letter of yesterday's date, I received information that the body of horse, who were attacked on the morning of the 17th, fled in such haste immediately after that affair, that they crossed the Godavery in the direction of Nassuck. I consequently deemed any further pursuit of little use, and accordingly left Pattre, and arrived here yesterday.

I have the honour further to mention, that the number of killed and wounded found on the ground, and the neighbourhood of Pattre, has been ascertained to have exceeded 70; and presume, from the nature of the attack, that many of those who fled must have been wounded also.

I have the honour to be, &c.

H. SMITH,

Major, 14th Regt.

Commanding detachment.

Colonel Lionel Smith.

Extract of a Despatch from Mr. Elphinstone to the Governor-General, dated April 26.

The body of Trimbuckjee's horse that was pursued by Col. Smith, crossed the Neera, at a place to the south-west of Baramatty, and

the Beema at Coomargong; some parties and many individuals separated from them about this place and beyond it, apparently with the intention of returning to their own country. This reduced the party from 4,000 to 3,000, during the period they were closely pursued by Major Smith, of the 14th regiment Madras Native Infantry, whom Colonel Wilson had detached from the reserve to march to the south of Beema: Major Smith came up with the enemy on the Paiza, after the admirable march which has already been reported to your Excellency, and beat him up at Patra, as recounted to your Excellency in the same despatch. This occasioned fresh desertions to a great extent; many of the fugitives came back to Poonah, and the body was now reduced to 2000. This body was taken up by Colonel Milnes on the Godavery, as reported in his despatch* of the 19th, transmitted to Mr. Adam, and pursued down the Rajapoor Ghaut into Candeish, by a detachment of 300 men under the command of Capt. Swayne, of the 13th regiment Madras Native Infantry; at this place they were taken up by the Vinchookur, whose own account of his proceeding I have the honour to enclose. He states himself to have taken many horses, but does not mention any loss on either side. During the period of this pursuit, the body of freebooters that had been forming in Candeish was defeated by Capt. Davies. On first receiving authentic intelligence of the commencement of this part of the in-

* Not received.

surrection, I suggested to Mr. Russell, that the reformed horse should, if possible, be prepared to check it. The reformed horse were then acting against the Naiks in Berar, but orders for their recall were immediately transmitted and as promptly executed, so that the first division of them arrived on the frontier of Candeish just as the banditti were assuming a tangible form. The gallant conduct of the Nizam's horse, and the complete rout of the insurgents that ensued, have already been reported to your Excellency. The fugitives from this defeat joined the party from the southward, and shared in the losses it met with at the hands of the Vinchookur.

It appears to have been the intention of both parties to form a junction, after which, by the accounts of the prisoners, they were to have come to Poonah; but probably their plan was to have plundered the country, and to have taken advantage of any opening that might afford them a prospect of success against any of our detachments or their supplies.

A body of the insurgents has long been mentioned as having descended into the south of the Concan; they have lately moved north as far as Roose Ashtumee, and the fear of their approach has occasioned the desertion of the villages on the Bombay-road: two companies of Native Infantry marched from Poonah this morning to keep open the communication.

Extract of a Letter from the Vinchoor, Iageerdar.*

I SET off on Saturday, at night,

in pursuit of the troops that had come from Mahadeo, which amounted to 2000 horse, and two or 300 foot: they effected a junction with the other rebels from Gunnaispoor, (who had previously been defeated by the Nizam's troops.) I came in sight of them at last, when they immediately took to flight, and were pursued for several coss, till I totally dispersed them, and took about 500 horses: this done, I halted on Saturday morning at Jaunderee, and remained there all day; on Monday I marched to Lassoer, and shall move on Tuesday to Vinchoor.

Extract from a Despatch from the Governor in Council of Bombay to the Secret Committee, dated 26th of May.

THE forts of Ryghur, Singhur, and Poorandur, have been placed in possession of our troops.

His Highness the Peishwa has issued a proclamation for the apprehension of Trimbuckjee Dainglia, and his adherents.

Calcutta Government Gazette, March 20.

We know of nothing that deserves better our most hearty congratulations, than the successful achievement which has freed us from the continual provocation and resistance of a rebel power, in the heart of the British territories, and has put us in possession of his abandoned fort. This subject of exultation is still more heightened by the gratifying consideration, that the extensive military operations carried on against Hat-rass have been attended with almost no loss of lives.

The scale of bombardment adopted

* An officer of the Peishwa.
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adopted on this important occasion has no parallel in Indian warfare, and indeed is the first instance of bringing forward means adequate to reduce a fortress of great magnitude and strength, in the shortest period of time. In such cases the bravery and resolution of the enemy are of no avail, and the lofty and massy walls cease to be impregnable to a species of ordnance which involves the interior of the building in conflagration and ruin, and makes it too dreadful for the garrison to endure. The tactics which substitute science for personal courage are thus certain to abridge our military operations in occurrences of a similar nature. There can be no glory to the assailed in prolonging resistance, when the incessant firing and explosion of shells and rockets burn and destroy the very citadel, and from which there is no refuge. At Hatrass the stoutest heart was struck with horror and dismay. The garrison sunk under the dreadful operations which exposed them to certain death, without having any means of repelling or defeating the object of the besiegers. Their cannon were of no use, although they kept up a constant but ill-directed fire. Yet the infatuation of Dyaram was such, that he would give no signs of submission. By his resistance he had already forfeited all claim to pardon, and therefore he unavailingly sacrificed every thing to his stubbornness, and the proud but empty boast of unconquerable valour, as if under such circumstances valour could have been exercised to any advantage. The delusion which led him to imagine

that the fort was too strong and inaccessible to be taken was, however, soon over; and his fate will answer a useful purpose in showing others, should there be any of similar views and characters, how idle are the notions which induce them to believe their fastnesses impregnable to European science. It is a great consolation that no assault was made; for, judging from the manner in which Dyaram's horsemen effected their escape, and the bravery and devotion to their chief which they displayed, great loss would have been inevitable in the breach. But, setting aside the political importance of the conquest, we consider that the manner by which it was effected forms a memorable era in the military history of India. The Rohilla cavalry which went in pursuit of the fugitives had returned on the 3d, without having been able to come up with Dyaram. It appears that all the female part of his family had escaped in disguise. There are accounts of one of his women having taken refuge with a neighbouring Zemindar, who had reported the circumstance to the magistrate, and who had been directed to treat her with respect and consideration.

Previous to the commencement of operations before Hatrass, the inhabitants of the gunge had been warned by the British authority against resistance, and the greater part of them had in consequence abandoned their property, and retired to a distant village. Since the fall of the fort, we understand they have returned to resume their property and occupations.

REMARKABLE TRIALS AND LAW CASES.

LIBELS.

Court of King's Bench, June 5.
The King v. Thomas Jonathan Wooler.

—This was an information filed against the defendant by the Attorney-general for printing and publishing a libel. His plea was, Not guilty.

The Attorney-general said, that the libel charged in the information was contained in a periodical paper called *The Black Dwarf*, of which the defendant was the author and printer. The number comprised in the libel was dated April 2d, and the information contained two counts: the first was for a libel on the ministers employed by the king in the administration of the government; and the second was for a libel on two distinguished individuals, members of that administration.

The Attorney-general, after some remarks by way of preliminary, proceeded to read the libel in question. He particularly dwelt upon the charge, that the administration “talked of patriotism when they meant plunder;” and that their object in embarking in a war against France was not to conquer that country, but ourselves. And he appealed to the good sense of the jury, if the whole were not a gross, scandalous, and seditious libel, calculated to bring the government of

the country into contempt, and to stir up the people to disorder and sedition. He afterwards noticed the libel upon Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning, arguing that the purpose of it was the same, though its malignity was restricted to two individual members of the government.

Benjamin Steill was next called to prove the publication, but it was admitted by the defendant as his own act.

Mr. Law then read all the parts charged in the accusation as libels.

The defendant then commenced his address to the jury; and it cannot be denied that the spirit of it obtained the applauses of a great part of the audience, which the sheriffs found it difficult to repress.

Mr. Justice Abbot, the judge, whose office it was to charge the jury, began with stating the general nature of the crime of libel. It is open (said his lordship) to every subject of the kingdom to discuss the measures of government, provided it is done reasonably, fairly, and impartially; but if he chooses to issue forth to the world slander and calumny, he is a libeller, and becomes amenable to the law. He then noticed various observations made by the defendant which were not correct in point of fact; and he concluded with expressing his opinion very

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decidedly

decidedly that the productions in question were libels.

After the jury had consulted a short time, one of them asked his lordship, supposing they considered the facts stated to be true, were they still by law bound to find the publication a libel.

Mr. Justice Abbot answered (but not quite audibly), that the truth of the fact did not justify the libel—and he read to them Lord Raymond's opinion upon the question.

The jury retired for two hours and a half, and then returned to the court, the foreman standing with three of his fellows at the door of the judge's room: the other jurymen were behind them.

Mr. Law (clerk of Nisi Prius) then put the question in the usual form, whether they found the defendant guilty of the misdemeanor charged in the information, or not guilty?

The Foreman answered, We find him guilty; but three of the jury wish to state special grounds.

Mr. Justice Abbot said, your verdict must be a general verdict of guilty or not guilty. Do I understand you to say, that you find the defendant guilty?

The Foreman bowed, and appeared to answer "Yes."

Mr. Justice Abbot. Is the verdict of guilty the verdict of all the gentlemen of the jury?

The Foreman again bowed, but if he said any thing, it was inaudible beyond the bench.

After the jury impannelled for the trial of the second information had retired, Mr. Chitty said, that he hoped it would not be considered as an impertinent intrusion, if he mentioned to his lordship, that

three of the jurymen stated that they had not brought in their verdict, Guilty.

Mr. Justice Abbot. When I put the question, the foreman answered in the affirmative, that it was the verdict of the whole jury.

Mr. Chitty. Three of the jury understood that they were to go back and reconsider, as your lordship could only receive a general verdict.

Mr. Justice Abbot. I take it for granted that the crown only wishes to obtain a verdict by legal means. No gentleman objected to the verdict at the time; and an answer was given that they all concurred. It may be extremely dangerous, if, after a jury has retired after giving in their verdict, any attention could be paid to the statement of some of the individuals. I certainly do not wish to infringe upon the privileges of the jury: but after a verdict has been received and recorded, I cannot allow a part of the jury, after they have withdrawn, having delivered in the verdict as the verdict of the whole, to say that they did not agree.

Mr. Wooler said, that the jury offered a paper to his lordship, who declared that he would not receive their objections.

Mr. Justice Abbot affirmed that he said, he would receive any thing that proceeded from the whole of the jury, but nothing that proceeded from a part of it. He asked, in a tone of voice quite audible, if the verdict of guilty were the verdict of all, and he was told that it was.

Mr. Wooler. The whole of the jury is here; they have never separated;

parated; and the verdict at present is only the verdict of nine, not of twelve.

Mr. Justice Abbot. I have delivered my judgment upon it: if it be incorrect, you will have an opportunity of correcting it hereafter.

Mr. Wooler. I have no means of appealing against your lordship's judgment hereafter. This cannot be justice, my lord! The three jurymen are ready to depose on affidavit that they did not consent to the verdict.

June 6.—The King v. Thomas Jonathan Wooler.

Mr. Justice Abbot, at the sitting of the Court, addressed the rest of the Bench as follows:—

I wish to take the earliest opportunity of reporting some circumstances which occurred yesterday at Guildhall, in the course of a trial which took place before me. The case to which I allude was an information by the Attorney-General against a person of the name of Thomas Jonathan Wooler, for a libel. After the case had been gone through, the Jury retired to consider of their verdict, and while they were absent another case was called on, the trial of it was proceeded in, and just before the reply in the second case was concluded, the door on my left hand was opened, in order to admit the gentlemen of the jury, who had returned after considering of their verdict; and as soon as the reply was finished, in one or two sentences, the names were called over by the officer in the usual way, and answers were given in the ordinary manner. The foreman of the jury then said, that the jury

found the defendant guilty, but three of them were desirous, or had desired him, on their part, to add something. I then interposed, and observed, that I thought I could not receive any thing coming from a part only of the gentlemen of the jury; that the verdict must be the verdict of all; and I then asked (speaking, as I thought, in a very distinct and audible voice) whether all the jury agreed in the verdict? I was answered that they did, and at that time I heard no dissent expressed by any person. The situation, however, was such, the jury not having all of them come into my view, that it is not altogether impossible that some mistake or misapprehension might have taken place; it is not impossible that some might not hear distinctly what had been said.

The jury having then retired, and the door being shut again, I proceeded to sum up the cause in progress; and when I had concluded, (it not being decorous to interrupt me), and after the second jury had retired to consider of their verdict, a gentleman at the bar suggested, that some of the gentlemen of the first Jury had not concurred, nor intended to concur, in the general verdict delivered; or had been desirous that the verdict should be received with some degree of qualification. I have not the words very distinctly now in my mind, but the circumstances I have stated. I farther understood, that some of the jury were present, in or near the court. I then said, that the verdict of the jury had been recorded, and that it seemed to me, that sitting in that place, I could not do any thing in the matter. I do not know whether

whether I made use of the sentiment; but it certainly impressed my mind, that it would be extremely dangerous if, after the jury had retired from the bar, a judge then in Court could receive and act upon any communication from them. I therefore was of opinion that the verdict must stand as the verdict of the jury. I wished to take the earliest opportunity of stating this occurrence to my Lord and my brothers.

Lord Ellenborough (after consulting with the other judges).—

The Court cannot, according to the authorities and precedents of law, receive an affidavit from a jurymen upon the subject of his verdict; and the reason why he is precluded from making the affidavit is, because, from the circumstances, it must have been intended that that verdict was given with his assent. In order to imply this assent, it must unquestionably appear that he heard what was propounded by the foreman on behalf of himself and his fellows; and the difficulty that occurs to my mind is, whether in this case there is sufficient evidence for the Court safely to act upon, that the jury did all hear what was propounded for them, and on their behalf, by the foreman. The jurymen were not all within the view of the judge, for it seems that a part of the jury were in the room behind. I say, therefore, that we have not in this case the ordinary means existing in others, for presuming that every one of the jury heard what was propounded by their foreman. If, indeed, they did not hear it, they were not furnished with any means of contradiction, or of signifying any dissent or qualification.

This fact supplies a distinction from all the cases that have usually come before the Court. A verdict is generally given, the jurors standing together in the presence of the judge; and they have full opportunity of hearing what is propounded by the foreman, and of expressing their dissent if they thought fit so to do. If it could be satisfactorily made out, from the position and nearness of the jury, or from the situation of the judge, that all the jury did hear, and that none of them dissented, it would perhaps be too much to disturb the verdict, and the Court could not receive any affidavit against it. But the perfect evidence of their hearing, and their means of assenting or dissenting, seem to be wanted here; and, therefore, I suggest, for the consideration of my brothers, whether in this case, under the uncertainty, (for any uncertainty is to be avoided, especially in a criminal proceeding,) it should not be allowed to the defendant to have the advantage of a new trial, if he should be disposed to desire it.

The Attorney - General. — It would ill become me to gainsay any thing that has fallen from the Court; but I apprehend, the utmost extent to which your Lordship has said the defendant shall be indulged, would be, that he might be permitted to show grounds for a new trial. I should apprehend, with great deference, that it cannot be granted in this case. The jury were certainly all called over, and they answered to their names.

Lord Ellenborough.—We assume that.

The Attorney - General. — All were within hearing at the time.

Lord

Lord Ellenborough.—At that time certainly.

The Attorney-General.—And the verdict was pronounced in such a tone of voice that it must have been heard by all present.

Mr. Justice Bayley.—The judge himself has a doubt in his own mind whether the verdict, as ultimately pronounced by the foreman of the jury, was distinctly heard by each and every of the jurors.

Lord Ellenborough.—If he had seen them there would have been incontrovertible presumption that they must have heard, unless otherwise disabled.

The Attorney-General.—I was only about to state that the Court would expect it to be made out satisfactorily that the jurors did not hear.

Lord Ellenborough.—The Court thinks it is precluded from the means of acquiring that knowledge through affidavits. That is the difficulty the Court feels. If it were not for the possibility that some of the jury did not hear, the danger would be infinite; and this danger has, in former times, no doubt, deterred such applications. I do not know that an application of this kind has ever been made.

Mr. Justice Bayley.—The Court, sensible of the difficulty, felt that it was due to my brother Abbot, and to the public, that he should make this communication. I entirely concur with my Lord in the observations he has made upon this case: it is peculiarly circumstanced, for the jury were not all within view of the judge: he could not see them, nor they him; and as soon as decorum would allow, the communication of dissent was made.

The Attorney-General.—I was only about to add a single word: If the Court thinks that, under the circumstances, the party should have a new trial, I am sure, standing here for the Crown, I shall not resist it for a moment.

Mr. Justice Holroyd.—Otherwise the Court does not see how it can proceed to pass sentence.

The Attorney-General.—After the opinion the Court has expressed, I shall not hesitate to pray that a new trial may be granted.

Lord Ellenborough.—I think, Mr. Attorney-General, you do as becomes you. (To Mr. Chitty.) Are you instructed, on the part of your client, to the extent of authorising you to desire a new trial?

Mr. Chitty said, that yesterday he had appeared on behalf of the dissenting jurymen.

Lord Ellenborough.—Then you have appeared, and we will hear no more at least upon that matter.

Mr. Chitty added, that he now appeared; and was instructed on behalf of the defendant.

Lord Ellenborough.—Do you desire a new trial?

Mr. Chitty.—I am instructed to apply to your Lordship for an acquittal.

Lord Ellenborough.—When it comes to your turn you will move for what you think proper.

Nov. 25.—*The King v. James Williams*.—The defendant had admitted judgment to go by default on an information charging him; a bookseller and stationer at Portsmouth, with printing and publishing a scandalous, infamous, and impious libel, tending to bring into contempt that part of the service of the church of England called the

the Litany. He was now brought up, on the motion of the Attorney-general, to receive judgment. The officer of the Court was about to read the information and the libel, when the defendant interposed, and said, that he did not wish the Court to be troubled by the repetition of the offensive matter. He then put in two affidavits by himself, in which he deposed, that he had been fifteen years in business, and had not, until now, been accused of the slightest infringement of the law : that he was entirely unconnected with and unknown to the original publisher of the libel in question, which he had reprinted at the request of a travelling dealer, without being at all aware of their dangerous tendency ; for him he had struck off 250 copies, besides some that he had reserved for himself, the sale of which he stopped immediately when he learnt their profane and illegal nature, at the same time ordering the types to be dispersed. He had a wife and five children depending upon him for support.

Other affidavits from persons resident at Portsea were put in ; they gave the defendant an excellent character for general loyalty and propriety of demeanour.

The Attorney-general then addressed their Lordships for the prosecution. He was willing to give the defendant credit for that feeling of regret which induced him to save the Court the pain of hearing once more a libel which had too often already fallen under its observation : every man who professed the slightest regard for the religion established in this country, must be shocked both at the form and tendency of the

publication ; the defendant might have printed comparatively few copies, but the Attorney-general feared that the poison had been widely disseminated among those whose education and habits enabled them but ill to resist its baneful effects. The defendant united in himself the double capacity of printer and distributor ; and what number of copies he had reserved for himself, after delivering the 250 to his itinerant employer, he had not ventured to state. The information justly charged it to be a scandalous, infamous, and impious libel, tending to bring into contempt and disgrace one of the noblest, most beautiful, and most affecting parts of the administration of divine service in this country. It was generally known that the ceremony, according to the church of England, usually termed the Liturgy, had been settled by the legislature in the reign of Charles II. : from Parliament it derived its legal character, but for its sacred character it was indebted to a higher source, the principles of Christianity ; which indeed might be said to be the very foundation of the law of the land. How important, then, was it that it should be protected from profanation by the punishment of those who were hardy enough to lay unhallowed hands upon it ? The defendant had stated, that he was ignorant of the tendency of the libel, and of its injurious consequences ; but the law presumed that a man who was guilty of the publication was guilty also of the purpose : that the libel was meant by him to produce that effect : it was impossible to imagine any thing more calculated to diminish,
if

if not to destroy, that reverential awe with which the less-informed ranks ought to approach their Creator than this blasphemous parody of the general supplication : to comment upon it further was wholly unnecessary ; the mere perusal of the libel sufficiently stamped its character, and disclosed its consequences. He hoped that the defendant had not been aware of its dangerous tendency, yet it was scarcely possible to conceive that any man should be so blind and thoughtless. He admitted, that circumstances were mentioned in the affidavits which deserved attention, but the libel spoke for itself, and the printer and publisher being before the Court, their Lordships would award a punishment adequate to the high offence

Mr. Robinson, on behalf of the defendant, trusted, that their Lordships would discover that there were not here aggravations beyond what the offence itself supplied. There was one circumstance connected with the libel, though foreign to the particular case, that especially forced itself upon his attention, and which he hoped would establish for the defendant some claim to merciful consideration : it was, that the defendant was not the first offender, either in the order of time or in the order of criminality, though unfortunately the first to receive the punishment of the law. He did not urge this circumstance in the way of complaint. He was certain that it was undesigned on the part of the Attorney-general, and owing to circumstances over which he had no control. It was, never-

theless, most important to the individual on the floor, for the first blow always fell with the greatest weight. In the administration of penal justice, the first object was the effect of a sentence upon the public ; the next, the justice and mercy due to the offender—for mercy and justice in the latter case were convertible terms. The principal offenders were always earliest made the subjects of prosecution : they were first sought out, and upon their heads the vengeance of the law first fell : when they were duly punished, the mild and genial feeling, so grateful to the Court, succeeded, and sentences were sometimes passed even more merciful than the degree of delinquency, most severely considered, might appear to warrant. An honourable and a memorable instance of the kind had but recently occurred. If then it should be obvious, that there were behind, other offenders more deserving the indignant infliction of the law (though the defendant should unhappily, even by the effect of his own contrition, appear earlier before the Court), it would not think it necessary to make his punishment the precise standard to what was due to such crimes : he had admitted judgment to go by default ; he had done his utmost to acknowledge his offence, and to show his contrition, and his situation might well be contrasted with those who had added to their guilt by a daring and contumacious resistance to the forms of the law. He had not bid an audacious defiance to the Attorney-general, or thrown the gauntlet in the face of the Court.

Court. A topic of mitigation might also be derived from the fact, that the defendant was merely a country printer. Those of that trade in London knew well that it was their duty to watch most carefully all the productions of their press ; it was a part of the economy of their establishments ; but country printers, whose types were engaged in catalogues, in cheap re-publications of popular works ; or at most in a provincial newspaper, were not sufficiently upon their guard in this respect ; and designing individuals might take advantage of their ignorance, and employ them to give to the world the most baneful libels : it was admitted that the parody in question had first appeared from a London press, and a man like the defendant might deem that circumstance alone some warrant for his conduct. It was sworn also that the defendant had not the remotest connexion with any of those who in the metropolis had spread these baneful productions. It was true that, in the eye of the law, a man who was guilty of the publication was presumed to be guilty of the knowledge of its effects ; but although this might warrant a judge in directing a verdict, it was a legal construction which would not be observed in all its strictness when the defendant was upon the floor to receive judgment : if, too, on the face of the libel, another object and purpose were more prominent than that charged, their lordships, in a case like the present, would be inclined to put the most lenient construction on the conduct of the defendant. The

learned counsel concluded by a few brief observations upon the contents of the affidavits.

The Attorney-general informed the Court, that there was a second information against the defendant for a blasphemous parody upon the Creed of St. Athanasius. The officer was about to read it, when the defendant again interposed, observing that it was unnecessary.

The Attorney-general described this publication as quite as injurious as the preceding : although a fair and discreet discussion of the mysterious parts of the Liturgy might be warranted, irreverence and blasphemous ridicule of them could not be endured.

Mr. Topping, on the same side, felt called upon by what had fallen from Mr. Robinson, to say that it was impossible the defendant should not have known the wicked nature of these publications ; he could not have derived his first information of it from the newspapers.

Mr. Robinson regretted that any thing that had fallen from him should have raised any feeling of asperity : it was far from his intention to excite it : he only felt, in common with his client, sincere regret that he had been made the instrument of the wider circulation of these productions. He allowed that to parody the Creed of St. Athanasius was an offence meriting punishment, but he hoped the Court would not attribute to the defendant a criminality not charged, although it should appear on the face of the libel. All persons acquainted with the history

tory of the Christian Church knew that some illustrious members of the Church of England, and some high ornaments of the Bench, had expressed their wish that the Creed of St. Athanasius had been couched in a form less peculiar.

Mr. Justice Bayley, in passing sentence, observed, that the libels in question well merited the epithets bestowed upon them in the information: they were calculated to undermine the foundation of all moral and religious duties, and to bring into ridicule and contempt the sacred ordinances of the Church; to fill the minds, more especially of the lower orders, with light and trivial matters, at a time when they ought to be devoted to the service and adoration of God. The case before the Court was certainly not one of the most aggravated description; but if the defendant had unpremeditatedly been the means of circulating these blasphemous productions, the evil with respect to others was the same: a slight perusal of them was sufficient to convince any man who revered the sacred institutions of his country, that they were profane and scandalous. It was said, that the Creed of St. Athanasius had been objected to by some of the holiest and ablest men: it might be so; but their calm and learned discussion could be no warrant for an intemperate and impious attack like the present. With regard to others who had first been guilty of this offence, they might or might not be more deserving of punishment, the Court always measured its sentences by the circumstances before it, not aggravating the

punishment in the case earliest brought before it, because it is the first, nor diminishing it in the latest, because it is the last. The sentence was—that the defendant, for the first libel, should be imprisoned in Winchester gaol for eight calendar months, pay a fine of 100*l.* and give security for five years, himself in 300*l.* and two sureties in 150*l.* each. For the second libel it was ordered, that he should be imprisoned four calendar months.

Sittings after Term, before Mr. Justice Abbot and a Special Jury.

December 18.

The King v. William Hone.—After Mr. Shepherd had stated, that this was an information filed by the Attorney-General against the defendant for printing and publishing a seditious and profane libel on those parts of our church service called the Catechism, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, to which the defendant had pleaded Not Guilty; the Attorney-General rose, and spoke to the following effect.

After having remarked, from Sir Matthew Hale, that "Christianity is part and parcel of the common law of England," he said, that if it were not an offence to revile the solemn service of our church, and to bring it into ridicule, Christianity was no longer parcel of the common law of the land. He then entered more particularly into the object of the prosecution standing for the present day, which was that of a protection to the Church Catechism, with its appendages, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. He dwelt with becoming gravity upon these articles; and pointed out the manner

manner in which, by the effect of parody, ridicule was attempted to be thrown upon each of them. A burst of laughter now issued from the crowd below the bar; upon which Mr. Justice Abbot, addressing the Under-Sheriff, desired that he would place persons who would bring before the Court those who should insult the feelings of the more grave and sober part of the auditors.

The Attorney-General proceeded to say, that if there were any thing in what he had read, which could raise a smile in any man's face, it was evidence enough that the publication was a libel. After some further remarks, witnesses were called in to prove the purchase of a copy of the work in question from Hone's shop, and to identify his place of residence. This was the whole of the prosecution.

Mr. Hone, who acted as his own counsel, then rose to speak; and though unpractised in the art of addressing a public audience, the impression which he made was very considerable. He began with some observations on an arrest which had been made upon him in the month of May, and in which he found cause of complaint against Lord Ellenborough for excess of rigour. He then proceeded to remark upon the manner in which special juries were struck by the crown officers; and in fine he came to the particular object of his trial, which was the charge made against him by the Attorney-General for publishing parodies. There were, he said, two kinds of parodies; one in which a man might convey ludicrous or ridiculous ideas relative

to some other subject; the other, where it was meant to ridicule the thing parodied. The latter was not the case in that which he employed, and therefore he had not brought religion into contempt.

He then introduced a number of quotations from different works, which exemplified the different kinds of parodies; but in this sketch it would be superfluous to enter into particulars, especially where it cannot be doubted that all modern examples of prosecutions on this ground have been entirely founded on political reasons.

The Attorney-General in his reply thought it necessary to mention, that Mr. Hone having been formerly arrested and imprisoned, he (the Attorney-General) knowing that the trial could not come on till the present time, had caused him to be discharged on his own recognizance, to appear on a future day. He then made some severe remarks upon Hone, and addressing the jury, entreated them to consider the libel coolly and dispassionately, and comparing it with what it was designed to ridicule, determine whether it were not a wicked, impious, and profane publication.

Mr. Justice Abbot, in his charge, said, that the question here was not what had been done in former times, but what the defendant had done in the present. He was fully convinced that the production was highly scandalous and irreligious, and therefore libellous; but if the jury were of a different opinion, their verdict would of course be an acquittal.

The jury then withdrew, and returned

returned to the box in less than a quarter of an hour ; when it being asked by the Clerk of the Court whether they found the defendant guilty or not guilty, their foreman replied in a firm voice, Not Guilty.

Loud acclamations were instantly heard in all parts of the Court, which continued for several minutes.

The next cause between the King and *William Hone* was tried at the Court of King's-bench, before Lord Ellenborough and a special jury, on December 19. Of the special jury only six making their appearance, the rest consisted of talesmen made up in Court.

The Attorney-General, addressing the jury, said that they were assembled to try a cause of the utmost importance to the constitution of society. It was that of a libel which was a parody of that part of the divine service called the Litany, or General Supplication. The information charged the defendant with having, for the purpose of exciting impiety and irreligion, and to bring into contempt in the minds of his Majesty's subjects that part of the public service called the Litany, and to apply the style and form of expression there used, to scandalous purposes, had published the libel in question. He then gave the jury a taste of the mode in which this conversion of the true sense of the Litany was effected ; but while he was with due gravity applying to the Prince Regent, and the Houses of Lords and Commons, the expressions of a solemn form of devotion, he was disconcerted by the indecorous laughter

of a part of the auditory. Recovering from this unexpected attack, he spoke with much severity of such interruptions of the courts of justice ; and he concluded with saying, that if the defendant's pamphlet were determined not to be a profane libel, there was no insult of the kind that might not be offered to the established religion, and to the sacred writings, with impunity.

The libel was next read by the Clerk of *nisi prius*. It was entitled "The Political Litany ;" and its direct purpose was to convert to a political meaning, the several articles of religious faith, in the order laid down in the original composition.

The case on the part of the Crown being closed, Mr. Hone rose with the intention of commencing his defence. Before he had proceeded to any length, Lord Ellenborough thought it proper to apprise him, that if he wished to show that similar applications or misapplications of texts of Scripture, or what is usually revered by the subjects of the realm, have been made by others as well as himself, he should not receive it.

I have stated (said his lordship) my decided purpose ; and you may now use your own discretion whether you will dilate further upon a point which I declare is not judicially admissible !

Mr. Hone. I ask your lordship whether you mean to send me from this place to a prison ? If you do not hear me, you do that. If you will not allow me to make my defence to the jury, how can I avoid it ?

After some further discussion, his lordship said, Go on, exercise your

your own discretion. I have stated the rule in intelligent and intelligible terms.

From this time to the termination of the trial almost the only speakers were Lord Ellenborough and Mr. Hone; and although it cannot be supposed that much civility passed between them, yet it does not appear that his lordship's decision respecting what was or what was not judicially admissible, prevented the defendant from bringing into Court the greater part of the parodies which was selected for their hearing.

Lord Ellenborough, in his charge to the jury, declared, that of all the parodies which the defendant had read, he could not find any that bore any proportion to the enormity of the present; and in conclusion he said, that he would deliver there his solemn opinion, as he was required by Act of Parliament to do; and under the authority of that Act, and still more in obedience to his conscience and his God, he pronounced this to be a most impious and profane libel.

The jury retired at a quarter past six, and returned at eight; when the foreman, in a steady voice, pronounced a verdict of Not Guilty.

The third day of Mr. Hone's trial followed on December 20th. Lord Ellenborough sat a second time; and the Attorney-General, observing that the defendant was obviously much wearied by the exertions of the two preceding days, offered, as a matter of favour, to postpone the day. Mr. Hone, however, declined the indulgence, and wished the trial to proceed. The jury consisted of

seven special jurymen, and five talesmen.

The Attorney-General, in addressing them, said that it was his duty to charge the defendant with the publication of a profane libel on that part of the service of the Church of England, which was called the Creed of St. Athanasius. The work in which it was contained was entitled the Sinecurist's Creed; and he read several passages of the work to prove that it was a parody of that of St. Athanasius. The whole was afterwards read by Mr. Law; and whatever be thought of the adoption of the latter creed by the English church, it will scarcely be disputed that the ridicule attempted to be thrown upon it by the Sinecurist's Creed was of the lowest class of productions of that nature.

Mr. Hone then commenced his defence, which he continued during seven hours and a half with extraordinary spirit, passing in review the whole tribe of parodists, ancient and modern. In the reply of the Attorney-General, and the charge by Lord Ellenborough to the jury, there was evidently a falling off, compared to the decision with which the defendant had been pronounced upon in the former days of the trial; as there was on his part a confident appeal to the sentiments of the jury. At 20 minutes after eight the jury retired to consider their verdict, and returning into Court at 12 minutes before nine, their foreman pronounced a verdict of Not Guilty.

The moment the words were pronounced, a spontaneous burst of applause issued from the crowd in

in the Court, which soon extended to the crowd on the outside ; and for some minutes the hall and adjoining avenues rang with shouts and acclamations.

Some days afterwards a liberal subscription was entered into for Mr. Hone and his family.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT THE BAR.

Lancaster, Sept. 10.

Hodgson v. Scarlett.—Mr. Richardson stated the action to be brought by Peter Hodgson, gentleman, for damages on account of words spoken by James Scarlett, Esq. at the last spring assizes in this court.

Mr. Raine.—May it please your lordship, gentlemen of the jury, It often happens to all of us, owing to professional accident, to be engaged in actions painful to our feelings. Painful, I can with truth assure you, the present action is to my feelings. Having travelled in our professional walk, with a gentleman of Mr. Scarlett's character, for more than 26 years, having known him in private life for a still longer period, I cannot be supposed capable, by any who know me, of harbouring an unkind sentiment towards him, and still less of giving utterance to such a sentiment, if I could entertain it: but what I owe to my client; what I owe to the profession to which I belong; what I owe, I may say it without arrogance, to myself, oblige me to lay before you the ground of the present action. Peter Hodgson is, and has long been, an eminent attorney in Whitehaven, in the county of Cumberland, and applies now to you in consequence

of the wound given to his professional reputation by Mr. Scarlett's language at this bar. The freedom of speech at the bar is of the utmost importance. During the present assize I heard, with much pleasure, Mr. Scarlett descant upon this topic. I could not help believing that he spoke then in anticipation of this action. This freedom of speech is of the greatest importance, not only to the dignity of the bar, but to the interests of the public, whose high and delicate interests are intrusted to the bar. Of this freedom none can be a more strenuous and tenacious friend than I. In importance and utility, I hold it to be of the same rank as freedom of discussion in the Commons' House of Parliament. I have thus made the highest admission in favour of Mr. Scarlett; but bounds must be set to this freedom of speech—otherwise, from the greatest blessing, it becomes the bitterest curse that can infest and annoy society. These bounds were overleaped in this case. Mr. Scarlett, while addressing the jury for the defendant in an action in this court, went out of his way to traduce and vilify the character of the attorney for the plaintiff, and to wound his reputation. I shall not go into the particulars of that action: they are not upon the record, and his Lordship will tell you that it was not necessary they should. The words charged, and which we shall prove to have been spoken, are these—"Some actions are founded in folly, some in knavery," (Mr. Baron Wood. That is surely true.—Mr. Raine. Yes, my Lord, these are certainly truisms, but they are thus connected), "some

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in both; some actions in the folly and knavery of attornies, and some in the folly and knavery of the parties." My friend is not apt to deal in metaphysical abstraction; you know very well that he does not use words without application. We shall not attempt to prove his whole speech. You know with how little credit a long story is received from witnesses; but we shall prove the words here entered upon the record: "Mr. Peter Hodgson was the attorney for the plaintiff; he drew the promissory note; he fraudulently got Beaumont to pay 150*l.* to the plaintiff. This was the most profligate thing I ever knew done by a professional man." Then follows the particular expression which we have charged in the second count on the record: it concludes the remarks already stated to you. The sting is always in the tail. "Mr. Hodgson is a fraudulent and wicked attorney." Now, gentlemen, I ask you, if you were wrong in any action brought into this court, how would you like such abuse of the freedom of speech by a gentleman holding a high reputation at the bar? A humbler individual, if he had not the spirit and the honour to vindicate his fame from such an attack, would be ruined. My client has the spirit and honour to repel it. The defendant has joined the general issue; that is, the words are denied. I have a right to presume, indeed I have more than a presumption, that his instructions did not warrant the words, and Mr. Hodgson has taken care to ascertain the fact. In the hurry, agitation, and irritation of the bar, words may certainly be

uttered that are not warranted; but a serious impression to the injury of character and professional career could never be allowed to be made with impunity. What was Mr. Hodgson to do? He called upon Mr. Scarlett to justify or to deny these words: he would do neither. Mr. Hodgson, therefore, found he must appeal to a jury. The words will be indisputably proved. Mr. Hodgson was distinctly predicated to be a fraudulent and wicked attorney. The only question then was, whether he was thus to be traduced with impunity. I mentioned that the plaintiff lives in a different county. It is generally a suspicious circumstance for a plaintiff to come to a jury of a different county, as if he could not trust a jury who knew his character. But in this case the action was brought here because the words charged had been uttered here; and it is rather advantageous to my learned friend, for if there is one place on this circuit in which he is better known than in another place, it is the county palatine of Lancaster. As I believe this will be the last time I can address you on the subject, I must say a word of damages. I distinctly disclaim for my client that damages are his object. He only wants the vindication of his injured character. You will take care that he sustain no loss by this vindication. I do not ask for angry and vindictive damages. I ask no more than justice to my client. Less than justice you will not give.

Mr. Baron Wood.—Can you mention any action of the same kind, or upon what principle it can be maintained?

Mr.

Mr. Raine.—I do not know that any action of the kind has ever been brought.

Mr. Baron Wood.—It appears to me that an action cannot be maintained for words spoken in judicial proceedings. If a counsel misbehaves, or goes too far, the judge who presides corrects his misconduct; but if an action is once maintained, there is no end of it. Actions of this kind would perpetually occupy the court. If a counsel were to pause in his pleading, and to say such a man is a great rogue, that would be actionable.

Mr. Raine.—That is precisely our case. We say the libellous expressions were voluntarily and gratuitously used.

Mr. Baron Wood.—No; whether a note was fraudulent or not, as I understand the record, for I know nothing of the nature of the first action.

Mr. Richardson.—The privileges of Parliament have been alluded to. I don't apprehend that the question here has any resemblance to them.—(Mr. B. Wood. Why not?)—Well, be it that the utmost freedom of speech is allowed; but to go out of the way to attack character—(Mr. B. Wood. No, it was not out of the way; the words might be too severe, but they were connected with the note. It would be a dangerous precedent to receive an action on such a ground.)—If a man's character is injured, if, for instance, a surgeon is injured and obstructed in his career, there must surely be some remedy. The presiding wisdom in our courts is no protection, when the injury is sustained, when the shaft strikes, and cannot

be extracted by such protection. I, like all my brothers, am interested in the full freedom of the bar, but there must be a limit. The privilege of parliament is a peculiar species of right that cannot in its very nature be made actionable in courts of law. The plain question here is, if the counsel could with impunity go out of his way, and say, Mr. Hodgson "is a fraudulent and wicked attorney."

Mr. Topping.—Does your Lordship wish us to say any thing on the question?

Mr. B. Wood.—Yes.

Mr. Topping.—I did expect to hear some observations by your Lordship on the novelty of this action. Its tendency and nature are important, not only to the bar but to the client. If such an action can be maintained, very different will be the situation of every client in a court of justice, when deprived of the free and vigorous exercise of his counsel, at full liberty to apply his talents, learning and industry to the cause in which he is engaged. The words in the record are only the opinion, the inference, the comment, which my honourable and learned friend felt at the time to be merited. The facts of the case warranted the comment. Mr. Raine very judiciously and very ably—I observe he shakes his head, but I will say—(Mr. Raine, I read every word,)—if Mr. Raine had not interrupted me, he would have heard me say, in terms no ways disrespectful to him, that he showed great prudence and discretion in not communicating the facts and circumstances of the case. The words were severe, because my hon. and learned friend felt severity

to be warranted. They were the comments which the learning and ability of my friend suggested on the facts proved. "Some actions are founded in folly." That action was so, for it ended in a nonsuit. The whole passage was not respecting the character of Mr. Hodgson in general, but in this case. If the counsel are not allowed to comment on the facts proved, there is an end of the British bar's utility; its energies are paralyzed for ever: without those fair and honourable exertions which are thus attempted to be suppressed, it will be neither creditable nor useful. The expressions used by my friend were called for and merited in my opinion. But it was necessary not only to prove that they were false, but malicious. Good God! will it be said that we feel any malice against a party against whom we exert ourselves at this bar? Will your lordship be the first judge to fetter the bar; and, if I may use a coarse and vulgar expression, to oblige every counsel to address a jury with a halter about his neck? The danger is palpable and plain. Your lordship will not allow in 1817 a principle to be established hitherto unknown to English law.

Sergeant Hullock.—That this action is *primæ impressionis* is proof of the unanimous opinion of the whole profession against it. The words were used in the fair and legitimate exercise of his profession; they were too strong perhaps, but they were not actionable. If he had met a man in the street and repeated them, it would be a libel. In giving a character to a servant there could be no ground of action. Sir Jervis Clif-

ton was found liable in an action, because he had written a letter respecting a servant, after he had given the character. There was no vindication on record, because the manner and occasion was the vindication. If this action were maintained, it would be the ruin of the British public as well as of the privileges of the bar.

Mr. Littledale.—The words arise from the fair discussion of the question. If they had been used on a question of trespass, the case would be different. The action was on a note; the note was fraudulent; it was wicked and fraudulent in an attorney to act so: Mr. Hodgson was that fraudulent and wicked attorney. The words were not distinct and independent. I admit that Mr. Scarlett would be liable if he had spoken the words in the street, or caused them to be published in a newspaper. That what would otherwise be libellous might be said in giving the character of a servant was proved in the case of *Weatherstone v. Hawkins*.

Mr. Raine, (in reply.) — The words are false. The comment was unmerited. That they were malicious, I may say, appears on the face of the expressions. I have been twitted twice; one sneer would be enough for not citing a case. I distinctly admitted that I knew no case. The question is, whether there are no bounds, and Counsel may go any length. If there are, to call my client fraudulent and wicked was going beyond the bounds and limits which must be fixed.

Mr. Baron Wood was not for giving sanction to this action, of a first impression, brought for the first

first time, because it would be most mischievous, not merely to the bar, but to the public. The words might overstep the bounds of propriety, and be too severe, but they were not to be corrected by such an action. If they had been said elsewhere, if they had been published, they could be punished. In the privileges of Parliament it was the same. The principle was this—whatever is said in judicial or legal proceedings is not actionable. If published, it is. Lord Abingdon was found liable in the King's Bench on this principle, and was imprisoned. He refused, on the same principle, to maintain an action at Northampton, brought by a clergyman against a parishioner, for letters written to the bishop of the diocese (Peterborough), because he would not make courts of law ancillary to ecclesiastical courts, the parishioner having a right to make such representations to the bishop. It had been said, some limits must be set. His objection to this action was the difficulty of fixing limits. During one assize, they could do nothing but try actions brought for words used by counsel at the former assize. The words might be too severe; I cannot say any thing of that.—Plaintiff nonsuited.

OLD BAILEY SESSIONS.

Feb. 28.—*Special Commission.—trafficking in Slaves.*—Captain John Bean Hanway was indicted for having, on the 10th of January, in the 56th year of his Majesty's

reign, carried away, in a certain vessel called a schooner, from Calabar, in Africa, twenty persons, to be dealt with as slaves, contrary to the 51st of the King.—There were eight other counts in the indictment.

The Attorney-general opened the case to the jury.

James Evans deposed, that he shipped as seaman on board the *James*, at Liverpool, in December 1814; J. Porter was at that time captain: she was a ship of from 4 to 500 tons; they left Liverpool in December; they then had a schooner on deck; the ship's company consisted of thirty-six; the prisoner was chief mate; they were bound for Africa, and their cargo consisted of salt, iron, guns, powder, cloth, and rum; they went to Cork, thence to Madeira, and from thence to the coast of Africa. They came finally to Calabar, where the captain died, and the prisoner succeeded him. They left Cork in January, and arrived at Calabar in August. The *James* went up Calabar river 80 or 90 miles: there was a river called the *Qua* which branched from it. Previous to their arrival at Calabar, witness saw irons which answered the purpose of handcuffs on board the ship: he saw five pair put on board a Portuguese schooner. The prisoner told him there was a cargo of slaves for him to carry from Duke Ephraim. The schooner was put on board when they commenced their voyage; it was for the purpose of collecting ivory and black wood: but at Calabar she was altered by the prisoner's direction, by knocking the ship's fore bulk-head in, and thereby making a bulk-head

to the schooner, in order to make a partition, and thereby divide the male from the female slaves. The ivory and wood could be better stowed without the partition. The witness was on shore the morning before he went for the slaves, but returned in the afternoon, and the prisoner told him the schooner which was to take the slaves was ready. Witness was ordered to bed at seven o'clock, and about ten he was called up by James Lenton, who was steward, and who said the canoe with the slaves was coming; he got up, and it proved to be a canoe of yams; she went alongside of the schooner which was lying alongside the ship; the yams were put into the schooner for the use of the slaves. Witness was called down stairs, and went in the Captain's cabin, leaving Renton to look out for the canoe of slaves. The prisoner said, "There is a cargo of slaves — call at the Qua river, at which place you will get ten more." In about ten minutes after he went down into the cabin, another canoe came with slaves. The prisoner had told him to make as good a bargain as he could for the slaves, as it would be for the good of himself and the owners. Witness was to take them to Camarones, two or three hundred miles down the coast from Calabar, by the prisoner's orders. He said, "Whatever you do, keep in shore; for if a man of war's boat, or a man of war, falls in with you, they will take you, and condemn the ship likewise." Witness was to take them to Camarones, and sell them to King Aqua. The canoe contained twelve women and

nine men, black slaves; they were brought along side the schooner, tied hand and feet, and the men were put into the forehold, and the women into the cabin. John de Gam and witness took provisions from the ship and went into the schooner; they took water, beef, and rum, and four ship's muskets, &c.; and two black men, belonging to Calabar, assisted them. The prisoner said, "Shove broad off, and make the best of your way to Qua river," and told the witness to count the slaves, and tell him how many there were. Witness told him 21. The prisoner said no more. This was between ten and eleven at night, in January or February. They proceeded to Qua river, and received one female slave; and from thence they proceeded to Camarones with the slaves; and on their arrival there, a Portuguese boat came alongside, with King Aqua in it, who said he would not purchase them; but the Portuguese captain said he would purchase them, as he kept his factory on shore. Witness said, "Very well," and the slaves were taken on shore that night, and an agreement was made with the Portuguese captain for a pipe of brandy, two gang casts, (20 gallons of brandy each), two barrels of gunpowder, 60 iron bars, and five pieces of Manchester cotton, all which was given in payment for the slaves. The odd slave was brought back, because she had a sore leg, and they would not purchase her. They were five days going from Calabar to Camarones; they brought the rejected slave back, also the articles they got for the slaves, and wit-
ness

ness reported to the prisoner what they had received for the slaves :— the brandy was taken on board, and the rest of the articles were sent on shore, but witness could not say for what purpose. The woman slave was sent on shore — Witness began to keep the log-book on the 25th of October ; and he asked the prisoner if he should enter the slaves in the log-book ? Prisoner said, “ No ; do not do that, whatever you do, it will be the worse for ourselves.” Five of the handcuffs were sent on board a Portuguese schooner at Calabar, at the request of King Ephraim, a short time before they went with the slaves, and two of them were returned because they were too small. One of the slaves on board the Portuguese schooner jumped overboard, and King Ephraim being on board asked for some handcuffs, and the prisoner told James Renton to bring them up from below, and put them on board the Portuguese canoe.

Witness underwent a long and severe cross-examination, by Mr. Adolphus, but it did not elicit any very material fact in favour of the prisoner.

James Renton, steward on board the James, corroborated the last witness's testimony.

Donald M'Donald, also a mariner on board, corroborated his testimony ; and added, that the youngest of the slaves was about 13 years of age ; they were all naked, and tied hands and feet.

This closed the case for the prosecution, and the prisoner being called upon for his defence, denied that he had any criminal intention ; that he was but 21 years of age ;

and begged the court, in the event of the jury finding him guilty, to consider that he had been in Newgate ever since November last. His friends, he said, were respectable, and lived at the Isle of Wight ; but he could not call them to speak to his character, in consequence of the distance at which they lived.

Mr. Justice Holroyd, in summing up the evidence, said, that it had been rightly observed, that one of the witnesses (Evans) did not stand free from contamination (as he might say), he should, therefore, following the doctrines of all the learned judges who had preceded him, recommend the jury to look cautiously before they pronounced the prisoner guilty, unless they should be of opinion that, in such facts as constituted the offence, he was borne out by the testimony of the two other witnesses.

The jury consulted for a few minutes, and found the prisoner Guilty.

George Cooke v. Colonel Maxwell.
—The plaintiff is an American citizen ; the defendant was governor of the colony of Sierra Leone, on the coast of Africa. The action was to recover damages for an assault and false imprisonment, with counts in the declaration for seizing and converting the goods and chattels of the plaintiff, and for burning and destroying his factory on the river Congo.

Mr. Scarlett stated the case on behalf of the plaintiff. The injury of which this subject of the United States complained, most deeply affected his person and property, having undergone the most severe afflictions,

afflictions, and been reduced from affluence to beggary by the unjustifiable conduct of the defendant. The plaintiff was now thirty-four years old, and had long resided in Africa for the purpose of carrying on a traffic perfectly legal by the regulations of all governments. Having been long employed to assist a person of the name of Curtis, the plaintiff, in October 1813, had purchased a concern, known as the Bengara factory, for a sum little less than 20,000*l*. In March of the same year, the defendant, as governor of the colony of Sierra Leone, thought proper to fit out an expedition to the Congo (on which the plaintiff was established), 150 miles from the seat of his authority, and much beyond its limits. The professed object of Col. Maxwell, for this unwarrantable proceeding, was the destruction of the factories of all persons engaged in the slave trade, which had been prohibited since the year 1806, and in which the plaintiff from that date had had no concern: the expedition was under the command of Major Appleton; and arriving at the mouth of the Congo, with three ships and a number of troops, he sailed up a distance of 60 miles, destroying the commercial establishments on the banks as he proceeded. He fixed his camp in the territory of a native chief, called Mungo Catti, and thither the plaintiff was taken in custody, while the soldiers of Major Appleton, after carrying off a large quantity of ivory, and other valuable articles, burnt his factory to the ground. The plaintiff was sent on board one of the ships;

and, after several transferences, he was sent as a prisoner to Sierra Leone, where he underwent the mockery of a trial: he was convicted as a British subject, of being concerned in the carrying on of the slave trade; and after remaining for some time in the gaol of the colony, he was put on board an English sloop, conveyed to England, and lodged in the town prison of Portsmouth. From thence he was removed to the Laurel hulk at Spithead, where he continued in miserable durance for a space of six months, as a convicted felon. He did not obtain his release until the month of February, in the year following his first arrest on the Congo. On a representation of the unjustifiable proceedings of the defendant, not only in confining a citizen of an independent State, but in arresting him, and destroying every vestige of his property, far beyond the extent of his jurisdiction, the government of this country ordered that the plaintiff should be discharged, and he was set at liberty accordingly. Such being the short history of the case, it was quite clear that the defendant must be responsible for his conduct, and for the orders he had given to Major Appleton. After the unanimous decision of the judges in Skinner's case, which occurred in the year 1657, and the law of which had never been disputed, it would not probably be contended, that the governor of a colony was not liable for a wanton excess of the power intrusted to him. Redress could not be hoped in the colony where the governor was almost absolute; and, fortunately, the

the plaintiff had now an opportunity of appealing to a British jury, who would not think that his claims to their serious consideration were lessened by the circumstance of his being a destitute foreigner. No doubt, the excuse of the defendant would be his zeal for the abolition of the slave trade; but, as he had participated in the booty obtained by this expedition to the Congo, as he had himself received a considerable share of the prize-money, the jury would reflect, whether his zeal had not been a little inflamed by his love of money as well as humanity. It was also a circumstance not unworthy of notice, that Colonel Maxwell had knowingly exceeded his duty; for when the expedition was projected, the objections were pointed out to him, but he chose to proceed in his course, and to set up a paragraph in the Edinburgh Review against a clause in an Act of Parliament.

Malcolm Brodie was the first witness: he had resided for some time at a factory on the Congo, until it was destroyed by Major Appleton and his troops, in March 1813. He had known the plaintiff since 1802, who in October 1813 became proprietor of Bengara factory, which he bought of Zebulon Miller, who as well as the plaintiff was an American.

The Attorney-General here took an objection to the competency of this witness, on the ground that he had been convicted at Sierra Leone of a felony, by dealing in slaves. He put in a certified copy of the record of conviction, but Mr. Scarlett directed the attention of the learned judge to a few of its informalities. It contained no

caption, no count, no jurisdiction, no grand jury, and no crime. He contended, therefore, that it could not be received in evidence.

Mr. Justice Bayley was clearly of opinion that this document could not be received in evidence. It was in fact only a part of the record of conviction, and that imperfect.

The examination of the witness was continued. He with others had taken an account of the stock, on the transfer of the factory from Miller to Cooke. The valuation was about 15 or 16,000*l*. When first he knew Cooke he was servant to an American factor, named Curtis: he was about twenty years old when the witness first saw him. There was not much trade between October and March 1813, but in slaves, in which Cooke had not dealt since the abolition by this country, to the witness's knowledge. He could not pretend to swear that Cooke carried on no traffic in slaves at his factory; but he believed none since the abolition.

He understood that Dr. Purdie, the surgeon of the colony of Sierra Leone, had been appointed for that day to be chief justice. No witness was sworn or examined on Cooke's trial, and counsel and attorney were refused to the witness.

Major Appleton.—In the beginning of 1814, I was at Sierra Leone, of which Colonel Maxwell was at that time governor. I commanded an expedition up the river Congo under written orders.

I had 3 vessels under my orders, and about 150 troops, British and natives, besides the crews of the ships, when I sailed in
March

March for the Congo. We sailed up the Congo, about 60 miles, to Bengalan. During my absence at the Rio Nunez, Lieutenant Dodd brought the plaintiff to the camp at Bengalan: I kept him in custody until I went to Mungo Catti, from whence the plaintiff went by himself to his factory, to which I proceeded in the same evening. The troops were encamped two or three nights in the factory, which was fenced round. I left it the next morning, and did not stay till it was destroyed, but I left orders for that purpose. The next morning I found the troops carrying ivory down to the boats: we collected about $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons in the river, and perhaps $2\frac{1}{4}$ tons were taken from Bengara factory. I am certain that there were not eight tons. What was not brought away was burnt. I left orders that the plaintiff should be carried to Bangalan, and from thence he was conveyed to Sierra Leone under the charge of Lieut. Thompson. The ivory was sold at Sierra Leone, and the money was shared, according to the rules of prize money, in the army.

I was at the plaintiff's factory only one night. I did not witness the sale of the ivory at Sierra Leone, and know nothing of it from my own knowledge.—I have heard the defendant say that he had received his share of the prize-money. I never saw Cooke in irons. Whatever private property the plaintiff had at the factory was very small, and I directed Lieutenant Thompson to restore it to him, in consequence of the plaintiff pleading poverty, and saying that if he had not some money, he should starve in gaol;

I had very little conversation with him, but he never claimed the factory. I was present at his trial at Sierra Leone; the Chief Justice was absent in England, and a Mr. Purdie acted for him at the Quarter Sessions.

To questions from the Court, the witness said that, from the general appearance of the factory, he was convinced that it had been built for the purpose of carrying on the slave-trade.

Mr. Scarlett observed, that he could prove that it had been erected many years before the abolition by this or any other country; and, therefore, that the construction could afford no evidence of the fact.

Peter Parry went with the expedition against the factories on the Congo, in the Princess Charlotte sloop. he saw the factory of the plaintiff after it had been burnt: some of the ivory was brought to the witness's vessel: he saw about 8 tons. The boat made two trips, and would carry about 4 tons at each trip. Some casks of spirits were also brought, as well as a few trifling things. Cooke was conveyed on board the witness's vessel on the same evening: from thence he was removed to the Dorus transport, as a prisoner; he saw Cooke afterwards in gaol at Sierra Leone; the witness received prize-money to the amount of 15*l*.

Dr. Robert Thorpe, formerly Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, was called to prove that he had pointed out to Colonel Maxwell the illegality of his proceeding before the expedition sailed, but Mr. Justice Bayley held that fact not to be material to the case.

Joseph

Joseph Archeband and Peter Fall proved that they had known the plaintiff on the Congo, and had always heard and understood that he was an American.

The plaintiff's case here closed.

The attorney-general addressed the jury for the defendant, assuring them that he stood forward not in his public capacity of a servant of the Crown to defend Colonel Maxwell, if he had been guilty of any excess of his jurisdiction, but merely to see that his case was duly conducted and inquired into. It was unfortunate for this deserving officer that the Court of Justice of Sierra Leone had so mistaken the province to which it was limited, as to proceed to convict the plaintiff and the witness Brodie, when they had been taken out of the boundary of the colony; but being no lawyer, and incompetent to construe the clause in the act of Parliament, which might even puzzle the members of the profession; he had imagined that the Court had sufficient jurisdiction. With regard to the amount of the pecuniary damage the plaintiff had sustained, very uncertain and unsatisfactory evidence had been given; if the facts were in truth the plaintiff's, it was singular that he had never so represented it; and how he had become possessed of a sum large enough to buy it was a mystery which none of the witnesses had attempted to clear up.

Mr. Justice Bayley here interrupted the learned counsel, to suggest, that the pecuniary damage the plaintiff had sustained should be made the subject of arbitration; the personal part of

the injury was peculiarly for the consideration of a jury.

After some consultation between both sides, an arbitration upon this point was finally agreed to.

The attorney-general then addressed himself to the other part of the case, admitting that his client had acted indiscreetly, and had so far exceeded his authority as to render himself liable to answer in damages. He insisted that little or no credit ought to be given to the plaintiff's first witness, who had himself an action pending on the same subject, and who was interested in the verdict this day given. The learned counsel then adverted to the measures adopted by this and other governments ineffectually to put an end to the slave trade, which could never be effectually abolished until the whole swarm of factors on the African coast, not merely Spanish, Portuguese, or American, but English, were destroyed. Under this conviction the defendant had directed an expedition against the Congo, by which he had rendered himself amenable in the present action. He insisted that, as the Court of Sierra Leone had sent the plaintiff in custody to England, the defendant could only be answerable for the confinement which had taken place before sentence. As the defendant could not make out a legal justification, a verdict must pass against him; but the learned counsel was persuaded that the case called for no vindictive damages.

Mr. Justice Bayley, in charging the jury, expressed a clear opinion that the defendant was responsible in damages for the whole imprisonment

prisonment the plaintiff had endured from March, 1813, to February, 1814, since the illegal conduct of the defendant had been the occasion of it. There was no ground for charging him with personal animosity; but it was to be lamented that he had shared in the prize money obtained by the execution of his unjustifiable orders. With the motives of the party the jury had nothing to do: it was their business to assign to the plaintiff such sober and reasonable damages as the injury he had suffered appeared to require. The question regarding the pecuniary injury was removed from their consideration.

The jury consulted for a few minutes, and returned a verdict for the plaintiff damages 1000*l*.

A verdict was also taken for 19,000*l*. the damages stated on the other counts of the declaration, subject to the award of Mr. Taunton.

COMMON PLEAS.

*First Sitzings in Hilary Term, before
Justice Dallas.*

Westminster, Jan. 24.

Fisher v. Jebb, Esq.—Mr. Sergeant Vaughan stated, that the plaintiff was an army-clothier and tailor of great respectability, residing in Duke-street, St. James's, and sought to recover from the defendant, Captain John Jebb, of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue), the sum of 24*l*. for a remarkably large and handsome cavalry cloak, lined throughout with silk oil-skin, water proof, and made to order. The learned Sergeant observed, that had the defendant fortunately

been engaged with his regiment in the ever-memorable battle of Waterloo, instead of continuing at Brussels, he would, in the tempestuous weather preceding that eventful day, have found the great comfort and advantage derived from the very superior article furnished by his client. After, however, keeping the cloak nearly three months, it was returned on the plaintiff's hands, with the allegation that it was too heavy and cumbersome to wear; but the truth was, the defendant then had no further occasion for it, being quietly in quarters at Knightsbridge barracks. He should call his witnesses, and prove his case, when, he was persuaded, the jury would find a verdict for the plaintiff to the full extent of his demand.

Mr. James of Coventry-street, campequipage-maker, was the first witness called, who stated, that on the evening of the 25th of April, 1815, the defendant, Capt. Jebb, called upon him, and requested a recommendation to a military tailor of eminence, as he wanted a very large cloak to take with him on service; that it must be made under his own order, by a person thoroughly conversant in the business; that knowing plaintiff worked for General Sir Lowry Cole, and many other officers of high rank, he accordingly recommended him to Captain Jebb.

Wm. Gathard, the plaintiff's foreman, was next called, who proved the order; that the defendant is upwards of six feet high; that the cloak was to have a hood to cover the helmet; capes of an extraordinary size; that it was to be made very long, so that it might

might be occasionally used as a bed in the field; that witness assisted in making it, and that the cost price of the materials alone and workmanship amounted to 20*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; that witness, on defendant's return to England, waited upon him at Knightsbridge Barracks, when he stated, that he had worn the cloak; that the materials were good, and price reasonable; and that he had no other fault to find, except that it was somewhat too heavy, but promised to call on plaintiff in a day or two, and settle about it.

The Judge (Dallas) here asked Mr. Serjeant Lens, defendant's Counsel, whether this evidence was not irresistible? But the learned Serjeant, on consulting his client, said the cause must proceed.

The plaintiff, therefore, called Mr. Davidson, of Cork-street; Mr. Westoil, of Bond-street; Mr. Wilson, of Bond-street, and others, who all stated that they had made similar cloaks for the Prince Regent, General Lord Hill, and other distinguished characters, some of which cloaks were considerably heavier than the one in question, which they had examined most carefully, and all stated it to be a pattern of its kind, and the charge moderate in the extreme.

The Judge, on this weight of evidence, repeatedly recommended the defendant, who was in Court, to pay for it, lest he should animadvert more strongly upon his conduct; but he insisted on going to the Jury,—when, after an address from Mr. Serjeant Lens, and calling one witness, they stated themselves perfectly satis-

fied, and without either summing up, or reply from Mr. Sergeant Vaughan, found a verdict for the plaintiff, to the satisfaction of a crowded Court, to the full amount of his demand.

LIABILITY OF CARRIERS.

Bristol Assizes.

Rouquet v. Sherborne.—This was an action brought by the plaintiff, who is a clergyman residing at West Harptree, against the defendant, who is a common carrier, for the recovery of the sum of 29*l.* the value of a variety of articles of wearing apparel intrusted to his care, and to be conveyed from Bristol to West Harptree, about 11 miles from Bristol.

Mr. Serjeant Pell, in opening the case to the jury, observed, that it was one which would not take up much of their time. The plaintiff was a clergyman of great respectability, and the defendant was a common carrier from Bristol to Wells. The articles in question were the wearing apparel of the plaintiff's daughter, who had been at school at Bristol. It would be superfluous to enter into a detail of every article, unless his friend on the opposite side (Mr. Casberd) was desirous to go through the whole of the lady's toilette. The articles were packed up and carried to the waggon-office by a man named Clark, who could neither read nor write, and given to a man named Wood. He [the learned serjeant] knew not whether the usual notice was stuck up or not; and it had been said, that if a notice was put up in the office, it was a sufficient notice to all persons who came to it: but in that case, it would be for the defen-

ant to show that notice had been given; then he should apprehend, that as the man who took the articles could neither read nor write, the mere notice stuck up in the office could not be considered a sufficient notice to him; and if such a defence was set up, he should fortify himself against it, by proving the man who took it could neither read nor write.

The plaintiff's daughter, and John Clark, his servant, proved the facts of the case.

Mr Baron Graham then proceeded to sum up the evidence, in doing which he observed, that the defence set up was, that as a matter of public notoriety, there were notices stuck up in the office; and the question for their consideration would be, whether they could from these notices draw such an inference as would warrant them in saying, that the plaintiff had a sufficient knowledge of the terms of the notices; for if they should be of opinion that he had a sufficient notice, then in that case the responsibility of the defendant would be qualified; but upon that point they were to exercise their best judgment. Before they said that the defendant was liable, they must be convinced that he came into the possession of the articles; and to be sure there was but one witness who spoke to that fact. The circumstances of the notices were not of a very strong description, because the man who took the goods could neither read nor write. With regard then to Mr. Rouquet having received and known the terms of the notice, it must be supposed from his condition in life; and his having sent by the waggon before, it might be fairly inferred that he

must have had a knowledge of the notice. At the same time, if the jury should infer upon any fair ground that the parcel was delivered, and that it was lost, and that Mr. Rouquet had not a reasonable information of the notice, then they would find a verdict for the plaintiff.—Verdict for the plaintiff. *Damages*—29*l*.

NON-LIABILITY OF CARRIERS.

Oram v Fromont and Others.—In this action the plaintiff sought to recover the sum of 13*l*. 16*s*. and the value of four shawls, intrusted to the defendants, as common carriers, to be conveyed to Trowbridge.

Mr. Serjeant Pell, in stating the case to the jury, observed, that under the decision of Lord Ellenborough, who had ruled as follows, “the law is imperative, that a proof of the notice of the contract to the plaintiff must be adduced before the carrier can be exonerated from his liability to the loss,” the plaintiff would be entitled to the verdict of the jury.

Mr. Richard Stanley Laytham being called, stated that on the 17th of December last he took a parcel to the White Hart coach-office, in Broad-street, in this city. It contained 13*l*. 16*s*. in cash, and was wrapped up in four shawls, which were worth about 30*s*. It was directed to Mr. James Oram, Trowbridge. Witness paid 2*d*. for booking it. Of his own knowledge he did not know whether the parcel reached its destination or not. It was between 7 and 8 in the evening when he took it to the office.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gaselee.—The 13*l*. 16*s*. was a debt which witness

witness owed to a Mr. Bannister, and he had been desired to pay it to his son. Mr. Oram was a relation of Mr. Bannister. Witness had seen a public notice stuck up in the office, relative to no parcels being answered for, if lost, unless entered and paid for accordingly.

Mr. Baron Graham observed, that this fact established a notice of public notoriety.

Mr. Serjeant Pell.—That is my case. The parcel never did come to hand, although I cannot prove it: but I take it that it remains for the defendants to prove that it did come to hand.

Mr. Baron Graham.—It always forms part of the declaration that it never did come to hand.

The witness Laytham was then called back and examined by Mr. Serjeant Pell. Mr. Hathway, the bookkeeper, told witness the parcel was never sent. He said he was afraid it was mislaid, as he had written to the proprietors of the coaches to ascertain.

Mr. Gaselee objected to this testimony being received as evidence against the defendants, in which objection he was borne out by the Court.

Mr. Gaselee now submitted that the action must fall upon two grounds; first, that Mr. Oram had no property in it, as it was a debt due to Mr. Bannister; and secondly, that it had never got into the possession of Mr. Oram, as the consignee or consignor, neither had it got into the possession of the defendants.

Mr. Baron Graham observed, that it was presumed to be in the possession of the defendants immediately when it was delivered at the coach-office.

Mr. Gaselee, in reply, said it

was a principle of sound policy that the carriers should restrict themselves as far as possible to their liability; and the only thing for the jury to say would be, whether Mr. Laytham, the plaintiff's agent, had or had not a knowledge of the manner in which the defendants carried on their business at the time he delivered the parcel.

Mr. Baron Graham, in summing up the facts of the case, observed, that the action was brought for the non-delivery of goods; and the defence set up was, that there was such a public notice put up in the defendants' office, as not to render them liable for the loss of any parcel, unless it should be entered and paid for as being above the value of 5*l.*: and the question was, whether the plaintiff had a notice of that circumstance. The evidence was, that Mr. Laytham was aware of the existence of the notice within a fortnight before, and within a few days after the 17th of December; then what possible doubt could the jury entertain that the defendants had changed their mode of doing business in so short a time? The jury almost instantly found a verdict for the defendants.

CUMBERLAND ASSIZES.

August 19.

Hartley v. Harriman.—This cause occupied the Court from its opening at 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, to about 20 minutes after 3 in the afternoon, and excited considerable interest.

Mr. SCARLETT said the plaintiff is Milham Hartley, Esq. of Rosehill, near Whitehaven, in this county, and the defendant a gentleman who has travelled much in foreign parts, particularly on the continent

continent of Europe, but having fixed his residence in Cumberland, he purchased a house and a small quantity of land in the immediate neighbourhood of Mr. Hartley. Coming from a foreign land (Florence in Italy) he had given this residence the classical name of Tivoli—a name much celebrated in ancient times, and of course carrying with it the most pleasing recollections, as well as an idea of refinement. It did not appear, however, that the defendant had imported the urbanity of the countries he had visited—those refinements which we expect from one who has cultivated and has a taste for the fine arts; this would most clearly appear in the course of what he had to advance. In the month of November last, Mr. Hartley wishing to ornament the ground near his house, and to improve the breed of his sheep, made a purchase of eleven fine Leicestershire sheep, commonly called mug sheep, which were sent to him all the way from Tadcaster, and for which he gave 50 guineas; when they arrived, he turned them into a field which lies between his own garden and that of the defendant. Mr. Harriman, it appears, keeps three dogs at Tivoli (two pointers and a little terrier) for the purpose of defending his possessions. One of these pointers was of so savage a nature, that he spared neither man nor beast. Mr. Hartley and his servants had all been attacked by these outrageous dogs; they were not safe to come home at night, for it was at that time these animals were permitted to prowl wherever they pleased. When the sheep arrived, Mr. Hartley sent a message to Mr. Harriman, stating that as he had got some valuable

sheep, he hoped the defendant would take care of his dogs, as there was great reason to think they would worry the sheep. Mr. Harriman sent back word to Mr. Hartley, that he kept his dogs for the purpose of guarding his property, and if they were not enough he would keep 50 more. As was suspected, the dogs did fall upon the sheep several times, and at last they killed three, and bit four others so severely as to cause their deaths, thus spoiling the whole of the flock. As soon as Mr. Hartley was informed of this, he wrote a letter to Mr. Harriman couched in the mildest terms: it began—“Accidents will happen. I am sorry that your dogs have injured my unfortunate little flock; I should have seen you this morning on the subject, but understood you were not up:” and it concluded in the same strain and spirit by a proposition to Mr. Harriman to take the flock off his hands, paying him the first cost of 50 guineas. What could be fairer, or more gentlemanly, or more neighbourly than this? Mr. Hartley wanted nothing for bringing the sheep into Cumberland—he required nothing for their keep—he only wished to cover the expense of the first purchase, and so let the matter drop. But does Mr. Harriman follow the example of his neighbour? No, he waits some time, and then he replies by letter in a strain the very reverse of conciliatory. He says, having had time to investigate the charge of his dogs killing the sheep, he believes the same to be unfounded. He cannot but regret, therefore, that Mr. Hartley should have made such a charge; and in a strain of indignation he refuses to pay the 50 guineas, and rejects

rejects any farther discussion of the subject. Now, contended the learned counsel, no man of proper feeling would have acted thus towards a neighbour who had always lived on the best terms with him, and who had been injured. Mr. Hartley was reluctantly driven into Court to seek that redress which he failed to get in a more amicable way: and Mr. Scarlett trusted the result of the appeal would convince the defendant that the law will not authorize him to keep dogs to assail either people or property.

After evidence was heard on both sides, the judge, Mr. Baron Wood, summed up. He said there were three questions for the consideration of the jury—First, whether the sheep had been attacked, or worried, as it was called, by the dogs? Secondly, if they had been so worried, was it by Mr. Harriman's dogs? And, thirdly, whether Mr. Harriman had received sufficient previous notice to take care of his dogs? These were the simple questions for decision. In his opinion it was not necessary for the dogs to have actually bitten the persons they attacked to prove their savage nature.

Verdict for the plaintiff—Damages 24*l.* 10*s.* Both plaintiff and defendant were in court during the trial.

Before the Master of the Rolls.—Fieldes v. Hooker.—This was a case extremely interesting to all persons standing in the situation of owners or tenants of leasehold property. The question, which came before the court on an exception to the Master's Report, was, whether the defendant, who

had entered into an agreement with the plaintiff to accept a lease for 21 years of a house in Crescent Place, Tavistock Square, was justified in refusing to carry the agreement into execution under the following circumstances:—The defendant having contracted to accept the lease for 21 years, desired to see the title of the plaintiff to grant him the term, upon which the plaintiff delivered him an abstract of his title, deducing it from a Mr. Burton, to whom the Skinners' Company had, in 1809, demised it, with other premises, for a long term. The defendant, not satisfied with this, desired to look into the title of the Skinners' Company, but their solicitor refused to produce the deeds. It was argued at the bar, that they had no right to expose their title at the risk of having some flaw found in it. Perhaps there was not a corporate company in the City of London who could show a good title to the property of which they pretend to be the owners. It was a circumstance recent in the memory of the court, that the Corporation of Newcastle had lost 7000*l.* a year, by imprudently exposing their title, to satisfy the curiosity of a person to whom their tenant had agreed to grant an underlease. It would be sufficient for the defendant to have from the plaintiff a covenant for quiet enjoyment. The defendant insisted, that unless he was perfectly satisfied as to the title of the Skinners' Company, he could not be compelled to perform the contract, and the company refusing to have their title inquired into, there was an end of the agreement.

The Master of the Rolls said, he should hesitate a long while before he determined that an owner of real property, by merely agreeing to grant a lease, became bound to shew a title to the estate out of which it was to be granted: but it was quite a different question, whether he who was unable, or thought it inexpedient, to show his titles to the property to be leased, should have a right to compel a defendant to take a lease of such property, without any other security for enjoyment than the covenants into which the lessor commonly entered. What the defendant had contracted for was not a piece of parchment, or a precarious enjoyment from one year to another, but an absolute enjoyment for 21 years, the value of which depended upon the certainty of its duration. Of this certainty of duration he could not be satisfied without examining the title of the Skinners' Company; and as the plaintiff was unwilling to trust the inspection of it to those who might probably discover some defect in it, the defendant was well justified in refusing to accept the lease. His Honour accordingly decreed, that the Master's judgment was erroneous, in having reported that a good title to the lease could be made, and that consequently the exception must be allowed.

NON-ATTENDANCE AT DIVINE
WORSHIP.

Bedfordshire Lent Assizes.

The Rev. Edward Drake Free, Clerk, v. Sir Montague Roger Burgoine.—This was an action of a very novel as well as of a very ex-

traordinary description, and excited a considerable degree of interest throughout the county. Dr. Free, who is Rector of Sutton, appeared in Court, dressed in his canonicals, and was prepared to take part in the conduct of his own cause. The Court throughout was crowded almost to suffocation. The jury, which was common, having been sworn,

Dr. Free addressed the learned Judge on the Bench. He observed, that he had been driven into Court on the present occasion, in consequence of a motion made by the learned Counsel on the other side for judgment, in consequence of his not having proceeded to trial at the last assizes: aided by the remarkable fondness of the attorney on the same side for money. It was not his intention to have taken any farther steps in this business, because he had observed with satisfaction that Sir Montague had begun to return to reason, by coming to church on the 7th of April last. The steps taken by the defendant's legal advisers, however, had compelled him to come forward: and in doing so, he felt he was vindicating the cause, not alone of his brother clergymen, who had been but too frequently maligned, but of the Church of England itself. He trusted the example which would be made of the defendant would operate as a warning to others, and prevent that inexcusable inattention to divine worship which, when occurring with a person of influence in the county, had the worst effects upon the habits and manners of the lower orders of society. Having made this short preface, he should leave his

his counsel to proceed with the case, reserving the power to himself of occasionally addressing the Court.

Mr. Baron Graham.—You must either leave the duty of conducting your case altogether to your counsel, or take it upon yourself. I shall be happy to hear you: but it is not regular or consistent with the forms of the Court to have you constantly interrupting your Counsel, where he may not exactly meet your ideas.

Dr. Free.—Am I to be silent if I see persons coming forward, with the most audacious front, to commit perjury.

Mr. Baron Graham.—The rules of the Court are imperative; you will therefore exercise your own discretion in taking the cause into your own hands, or leaving it in those of your Counsel.

Dr. Free.—If that is the law, I must abide by it. I have every confidence in the ability of my Counsel.

Mr. Jamesson, Counsel for the plaintiff.—I had much rather Dr. Free would take the business in his own hands; but if he leaves it with me, I shall exert my humble efforts in his behalf.

Dr. Free.—I shall leave my interests with my Counsel.

Mr. Daniels then proceeded to open the pleadings: he stated, that this was a *qui tam* action, brought by the Rev. Dr. Free, under the statute of the 23d of Elizabeth, to recover penalties from the defendant, for neglecting to attend divine worship, in the parish church of Sutton, in this county, or any other place of public prayers for 19 months, whereby he became liable to pay a fine of 20*l*.

per month, amounting in the whole to 380*l*.

Mr. Jamesson said, it became his duty to detail to the Court and Jury the particulars of this case. The plaintiff was Rector of the parish of Sutton, and the defendant was lord of the manor in which the said parish was situated. The action was brought, as stated by his learned friend, to recover penalties under the statute of Elizabeth, for non-attendance at divine worship at his parish church, thereby, and in consequence of his example, spreading contagion around the country in which he resided. It was his wish to abstain altogether from a statement of the circumstances under which this action had been brought; he should, therefore, confine himself to the simple observation, that the plaintiff, in coming forward as the accuser of the defendant, was solely actuated by a desire to enforce the laws for the observance of religious worship. The statute under which this action was brought was the 23d of Elizabeth, by the fifth section of which it was enacted, that all persons in England absenting themselves from divine worship, either at their own parish church, or some other place appointed for public prayer, for one month, forfeited a penalty of 20*l*. This penalty was equally divided into three parts, one of which went to the Queen, another to the poor of the parish, and the third to the informer. He should be enabled to prove, in this case, that the defendant had absented himself from his parish church for nineteen months; and having done so, he should be entitled to a verdict for the full amount

amount of the penalties, or in all events for twelve months, which was the period within which the statute required the action to be brought. Witnesses were then called to prove the case.

Mrs. Margarete Johnstone deposed as follows:—I resided at the parish of Sutton on the 2d of April, 1815. I attended the church every Sunday from that day to the first Sunday in April, 1816. I know the person of Sir Montague Burgoyne, and during all that period I never saw him come to church. I am quite sure I attended church every Sunday. I sometimes saw Sir Montague on horseback. In cross-examination she said she was servant to Dr. Free, and had been so for four years.

John Northfield, parish-clerk of Sutton, corroborated the testimony of the last witness. He saw Sir Montague come to church in April, 1816. He sometimes saw him coursing during the year 1815.

Mr. Jamesson here closed his case.

Mr. Sergeant Blosset said, if this was the plaintiff's case, his client was entitled to a verdict, as no evidence had been offered of Sir Montague Burgoyne living in the parish of Sutton.

Mr. Baron Graham, however, considered this to be a mere oversight, and recalling the witnesses, they proved the fact alluded to.

Mr. Sergeant Blossett now addressed the jury on the part of the defendant. He said, that however unwilling he might be to trespass on the Court by any very extended observations on this case, yet he could not help remarking,

that the assertion made by Dr. Free, that he had stood forward as the champion of the Church of England and of the clergy, was not borne out by the facts. When a reverend gentleman came forward into a Court of Justice in his canonicals, and in the character of an informer, to support a *qui tam* action upon a statute which, although unrepealed, had been in disuse for upwards of one hundred and fifty years, he rather apprehended he would not be hailed by those whose interests he professed to represent, as a person likely to reflect much credit upon their sacred character. That such conduct was consistent with the true spirit of the Christian religion, he believed no man of liberal feelings would allow. With regard to the statute on which this action was brought, he was willing to admit that it remained unrepealed; but, at the same time, it was proper to remark, that it originated in causes of a political nature, and was by no means applicable to times like the present. Its operations were meant only to apply to Roman Catholics and Dissenters, at a period when the Church of England might be considered as in danger. The principles of toleration which had since been disseminated, however, and the firm foundation upon which the Church of England had been established, were such, that no man possessing the slightest claims to liberality would venture to put the construction upon the statute which it had received from the reverend plaintiff in this case. Without entering on the construction of the statute, however, he should be enabled to meet the plaintiff

plaintiff in the most conclusive manner: for, in the first instance, he should be enabled to prove, that for several months of that period during which the servant of the reverend plaintiff had so positively sworn that she had regularly attended Sutton church, no divine service had been performed in the church at all: he meant the months of June, July, August, and part of September; during which months the plaintiff had so shamefully neglected his duties, that he had received a monition from the bishop of the diocese. He should also prove, that at other periods, the reverend plaintiff was so inattentive to the performance of the religious service of his church, that his parishioners were constantly in a state of uncertainty as to the hour at which service was to commence, or whether it would be performed at all. Independent of this, it was no very pleasant thing for the defendant, when he did go to church, to hear a sermon delivered, which, instead of inculcating divine truths, was made the vehicle of personal abuse to himself. With these facts before them, the jury would be able to form a pretty correct judgment of the motives of this action. The next ground on which he rested with confidence, on the goodness of his own cause, he derived from the statute of Elizabeth itself; for by the statute of the 1st of Elizabeth, which was embraced by the 23d, it was enacted, that where the defendant in a *qui tam* action, such as that now before the Court, could assign a reasonable excuse for absenting himself from public worship, and should afterwards conform to

his religious duties, the action should be quashed. On this head of defence he should be enabled to prove that Sir Montague Burgoyne, who was a general in the British service, had returned from Gibraltar in 1814, in a most precarious state of health, and had continued thus afflicted down to the present day, a circumstance which he hoped, in addition to the uncertainty of the performance of church service at Sutton, would be considered a sufficient excuse for his non-attendance. With regard to his sentiments on the subject of religion, those would be best proved by the evidence he would adduce of its being his invariable practice to read the church prayers to his family every Sunday, when capable from the state of his health so to do; and if unable himself to perform that duty, to call upon Lady Burgoyne to read for him. He should also prove, that prayers were frequently read in his house by the Rev. Dr. Hughes, in his occasional visits to his family. There was another ground on which he was still more decidedly entitled to a verdict. This was to be found in the statute of the 1st James II. c. 4, whereby it was enacted, that any person offending against the statute of Elizabeth, by a non-attendance of divine worship, became exonerated from all consequences, by conforming to the rules of his church before judgment was obtained, and declaring himself publicly to be a faithful son of the Church of England. This Sir M. Burgoyne had done in the presence of the bishop of the diocese himself, and was there ready again to declare openly in court his high veneration for, and
accordance

accordance in, all the principles of the Christian religion.

Evidence was then called to support the defendant's case.

Lawrence Coxall, churchwarden of the parish of Sutton, proved, that Sutton church had been shut up from the 25th of June to the 3d of September.

Thomas Brown, the other churchwarden, corroborated the testimony of the last witness, and proved that the church had been farther shut from the 15th of September to the 5th of November, no service having been performed.

Dr. M'Garth, a medical gentleman, proved the precarious state of Sir Montague Burgoyne's health from his return from Gibraltar to the present moment, and the danger of his going to church at particular stages of his disorder.

Lucy Carrington, nurse in Sir Montague's family, bore testimony to her master or mistress invariably reading prayers to the family on the Sunday when they did not go to church.

The Rev. Dr. Hughes occasionally visited Sir Montague's family for weeks together, and always read prayers to the family when they did not go to church.

Mr. Baron Graham being of opinion that a reasonable excuse for the non-attendance of the defendant at his parish church had been proved, Mr. Serjeant Blossett did not call any more witnesses.

Mr. Baron Graham summed up the evidence. His Lordship abstained from making any remark upon the motives by which the plaintiff had been actuated in this action; but at the same time remarked, that no liberal mind could have construed the statute of Eli-

zabeth in the manner in which it had been construed by him. He left it for the Jury to say, whether a reasonable excuse had not been proved for the non-attendance of the defendant at church, and whether, in other respects, the case of the plaintiff had not received a complete answer.

The Jury without hesitation found the defendant—Not Guilty.

BEDFORDSHIRE LENT ASSIZES.

MARCH.

The King, on the prosecution of James Harris, v. the Rev. Robert Woodward, Clerk, and Susannah Woodward and Sarah Woodward, Spinsters.—This case has produced an uncommon degree of interest in all parts of the county of Bedford, from the peculiar character of the crime imputed to the defendants. The court was crowded at an early hour with persons of all ranks; but, from the nature of the evidence and remarks about to be submitted to the Jury, it was deemed proper that the ladies should be ordered to withdraw. The defendants having taken their places in court, the clerk of the arraigns read the indictment, which charged them with having foully and maliciously conspired together, falsely to accuse one James Harris of having committed a rape on the person of Susannah Woodward; in furtherance of which conspiracy the said parties appeared before the Reverend W. Hooper, one of the magistrates of the county, and preferred their charge, in consequence whereof a warrant was issued for the apprehension of James Harris: he was committed to gaol, and at the last assizes

assizes was prosecuted for the offence, but was acquitted. To this indictment the defendants pleaded Not guilty.

Mr. Serjeant Blossett addressed the Jury. The case demanded serious attention, not alone from its peculiarity, but from its importance, because it involved the character of a clergyman of the Church of England, and of his two daughters, who stood charged with having conspired to take the life of an innocent man, for a rape alleged to have been committed on one of them. The defendant, Mr. Woodward, was the vicar of the parish of Harrold, in this county, and his daughters lived with him in the vicarage-house. The present prosecutor, James Harris, was the son of a respectable saddler in the same town; and the charge imputed to him by the defendants was such, that it only required to be stated to convince every man that it was false. In fact, such was the nature of the evidence given by the young woman who represented herself to have been violated, that the jury before whom the trial took place, upon her testimony alone, pronounced young Harris Not guilty. That Miss Susannah Woodward had had intercourse with some one, whereby she was likely to become a mother, was beyond a doubt: but why it was thought proper to fix upon the present prosecutor must remain a mystery. In the testimony given by the prosecutrix on the indictment against Mr. Harris, she stated, that he had, in the month of July 1814, attempted some violence on her person: but that she had resisted him, and on his promise never to repeat similar conduct, undertook not to mention

the circumstance to her father. The more formidable part of the charge, however, she did not fix till the 18th of October, in the same year; when, according to her statement, she was coming from the privy in her father's garden, within a few yards of the house, the garden being overlooked by cottages, and her sister and a servant being at home, this very man, who attacked her in the July preceding, again assailed her, and at an early hour of the evening, in spite of all her resistance and cries, again violated her person. Her sister Sarah at length came to her assistance, when the ravisher got up, and after threatening both their lives if they attempted to disclose what had happened, went away. Whether it was possible to have committed a violation under such circumstances the jury would, after a disclosure of the other facts, be able to determine. From that period down to July in the following year, this young lady, according to her own tale, never disclosed to any person, except to her sister, what had happened, and then the disclosure came of necessity, for she proved to be eight months gone with child. During all this period she lived in her father's house, and under her father's eye. She, however, kept herself excluded from public view, and when she did go abroad, always wore a large cloak. He believed it was barely possible, under the description which she had given of the violence committed, that she should have proved pregnant; but even allowing the possibility, it was not a little extraordinary, that, living in her father's house so many months, she had not made a disclosure of the violation,

tion, or that her father himself, from the state of her person, had not made some inquiries. It was not till it was impossible longer to conceal the business, that her father was found in company with his two daughters before the Rev. Mr. Hooper, a most respectable magistrate in the neighbourhood, preferring the charge against Mr. Harris. On that occasion Miss Susannah Woodward made the deposition which she afterwards gave on the trial; and her sister Sarah corroborated her testimony by the following statement:—"On Tuesday the 18th of October last, I was alone in the house; I heard the voice of my Sister Susannah calling out 'Sally!' as if in very great distress, from the garden. I immediately ran into the garden, and there saw my sister on the ground, and a young man, named James Harris, a saddler, of Harold, holding her down upon the ground, with a knife in his hand close to her throat. I immediately cried out 'Murder!' and then Harris jumped up, and putting the knife close to my throat, said, if I cried out, he would run the knife into my throat. I said, if he would remove the knife, I would be silent. Harris then left the garden, after saying, 'that if I told my father, he, or some one else, would kill me or my sister.'" Upon these informations, Mr. Hooper granted his warrant for apprehending Harris. He was taken into custody; but, after protesting most solemnly his innocence of the crime imputed to him, was committed for trial. On that trial, however, as he had already stated, he was acquitted in the most honourable manner. In this view of the case

it must be taken, that the charge of violation was altogether false. So it had been pronounced by a most respectable jury; and no man would have the hardihood to say after this, that the charge by Susannah was not foul and malicious. Thus, if the charge of violation was false, he apprehended no doubt could exist, that Sarah, who had sworn that she was present when it was committed, joined with her sister in the fabrication of a gross falsehood, and thus became a party to the conspiracy against the present prosecutor. The two sisters being clearly implicated in the transaction, the next question for him to consider was, how the father became affected. In establishing the guilt of the father, he was persuaded, he should have as little difficulty as with the daughters. He would ask, in the first place, whether it was within the scope of possibility, that a father, a man of sense and discrimination, could live in the same house with his daughter during eight months of her pregnancy, without discovering her situation? But, independent of this, when his daughter told him the story, which she afterwards swore to before a magistrate, could he believe it? But this was not all, for he would be found before the magistrate, as if to confirm his guilt more strongly, setting his daughter right as to the particular state of the night on which the violation was alleged to have taken place. When Mr. Hooper asked "what sort of a night it was?" Susannah said, "It was a dark night;" upon which the father stepped up, and placing his hand on his daughter's shoulder, said,

said, "No, my dear, it was a fine moonlight night." Now, he would ask, how, if there had not been something of concert and plan in this mysterious affair, Mr. Woodward could have been prepared thus to assist the memory of his daughter, who certainly ought best to have known the sort of night on which she had been so dreadfully abused?

The Rev. W. Hooper examined, deposed, that he was a magistrate; that he knew the defendant, Robert Woodward: he was vicar of the parish of Harrold. On the 7th of June, 1815, he brought his daughters to witness's house. Witness took their depositions on oath, which they signed. They were read over to them before they were signed. The depositions were then put in and read.

Mr. Hooper continued.—In consequence of this information, he issued his warrant for the apprehension of Harris: Harris was brought before him the same day, and he committed him to prison. He sent for a neighbour, a Mr. Eyles, to be present at the examination.

Wm. Rogers, a constable, proved that he apprehended James Harris, in consequence of the warrant granted by the former witness, and conveyed him before Mr. Hooper. Recollected Mr. Hooper asking Miss Susannah how she came to recollect the particular night on which the violence was committed. She said she knew it, because it was the night after the gipsy row. [There had been some quarrel in the village with the gipsies.] Mr. Hooper then asked her, what sort of a night it was: she said it was a dark night: upon which her father stepped up

to her, and said, "No, my dear, it was not a dark night; it was a bright moon-light night." Witness took James Harris to Bedford gaol the same day. He utterly denied ever having had any connexion with Miss Woodward.

Mr. Marshall Eyles was present at the examination of the Miss Woodwards before Mr. Hooper. He heard Mr. Hooper ask Susannah whether it was a dark or a light night when the assault was committed? She said it was a dark night; but her father stepped forward and said, "No, my dear, you mistake: it was a light night."—Mr. Woodward spoke in an audible tone.

Mr. John Garrard, solicitor for Mr. Harris, said he was present at the last spring assizes, when Mr. Harris was tried on the indictment for the violation: he heard Miss Susannah Woodward give her evidence, and took a note of what she said. Witness then read his notes, which in substance accorded with the deposition given by Susannah before Mr. Hooper, except that the particulars of the assault were more minutely detailed.

James Harris examined.—I live at Harrold, and am 22 years of age. I am a saddler by trade. I know the three defendants perfectly well. I never had criminal intercourse with Sarah Woodward in my life. I went to school to her father for about a year. I was then between 13 and 14 years of age. I had no acquaintance with Mr. Woodward, except going to school to him. I had no acquaintance whatever with his daughters. I did not assault Miss Susannah on the night mentioned in July, nor on any subsequent night.

night. I spent the whole of the evening of the 18th of October with a Mrs. Reynolds and a Mr. Northern.

In cross-examination by Mr. Hunt, witness admitted that he occasionally went to fetch the newspaper from Mr. Woodward's house, and to take it back, but he did not see either of the young ladies there. He did not visit at Mr. Woodward's. He could play the flute. Once was invited to play the flute at Mr. Woodward's, when there was a party there. He did not see the young ladies there that evening; he was in another room, and when Mr. Woodward rapped at the door he played. He paid his addresses to Mr. Woodward's servant-girl. Admitted that he, on one occasion, accompanied Miss Susannah Woodward on the road towards Olney. She was on a pony; but being afraid to ride he took the pony back to Harrold, and she went on to Olney in a chaise.

Ann Robinson remembered having seen Susannah Woodward for a long time before her pregnancy was publicly known. She appeared ill, and wore a large cloak. She saw her soon after James Harris was sent to prison. She then perceived she was in a family way very plainly. Her sister used to say she wore the cloak to keep out the fever. Her size was such, that no person could live with her and not see that she was pregnant.

Mr. Sergeant Blossett was about to call further evidence, but the learned judge conceived he had already submitted sufficient to support his case.

Mr. Sergeant Blossett said, he was prepared with witnesses who

would prove a clear alibi on the part of his client.

Mr. Hunt now addressed the court and jury on the part of the defendants. The indictment in this case had been prepared ever since last spring assizes, and had been laid before the grand jury as soon as ever James Harris, who was described as having been so much injured, was acquitted. He begged to state to the jury, that this acquittal had taken place, not from any direct discredit attached to the evidence of the prosecutrix, but upon a rule of law: for as soon as ever Susannah Woodward had gone through her testimony, Mr. Sergeant Blossett got up and told the jury, that by a rule of evidence, which had been made a rule of law, the prisoner must be acquitted. The prosecutrix, he said, had concealed the fact of the violation of her person for eight months, and this concealment, by law, prevented the conviction of the person accused. It would be observed, from the course of cross-examination which he took, that he was anxious to see whether any attempt would be made to cast any reflection on the character of this young lady; and that, in no single instance, however minute, had any thing like levity or impropriety of conduct been attributed to her. The jury had, no doubt, watched with becoming attention the manner in which Harris had on this day given his testimony. They must have observed the boldness with which he, in the first instance, denied any acquaintance with Mr. Woodward or his daughters, after he quitted school; but upon being pressed, he admitted that he had gone

gone to the house to play the flute, and went there frequently for the newspaper: and, upon being still closer pushed, he allowed that he had once accompanied Miss Susannah towards Olney. How much oftener these meetings took place it was not his interest to confess. He was at a loss to know by what means Mr. Robert Woodward, the father, could be made a party to their crime. Had the character of that gentleman been impeached in the slightest degree? Had the breath of calumny in the most minute instance affected his moral conduct? Certainly not. Then what were the grounds upon which his guilt were supposed to rest? Why, forsooth, that his daughter could not have been 8 months pregnant in his house without his knowledge. Good God! Could any thing be more absurd than this? Was a father, who had brought up his children in the strictest paths of virtue, to be watching them with suspicion, and to be viewing them as common prostitutes? Could any parent, who loved and confided in his offspring, harbour a suspicion so foul as that they would prostitute their persons in the way in which they must have done to have produced the appearance described? Of all men living, a father, in his belief, was the last man who would have made such a discovery. What was Mr. Woodward's conduct when he did find out what had happened? Did he not immediately carry his daughters before a magistrate? What else could he have done to show his indignation? And then comes the last ground upon which suspicion could be attached to him.

It was said, that when before the magistrate he prompted his daughter as to the kind of night on which the violation had been committed. Why, could any thing have been more natural? The unfortunate girl, in the agony of her mind, returned an answer different to that which she had before given him; and in the anxiety of a parent, alive to every circumstance which she could relate, Mr. Woodward set her right, openly, and in the hearing of every person. Was here any thing like secret concert?

Mr. Baron Graham observed, that the jury had to decide whether the three defendants, two, or any of them, had been guilty of the offence imputed to them. In order to commit the crime of conspiracy, two must necessarily have been concerned; therefore, in this case, the jury must either find two guilty, or acquit the defendants altogether. The learned judge then read over the whole of the evidence. From this evidence, he observed, it was clear that the father must have known that his daughter was in a state of pregnancy. In the first place it appears, that not a syllable of this charge came to the knowledge of James Harris till seven or eight months after the fact was alleged to have taken place; and then what was done? The charge is preferred, the prosecutrix is examined, and upon coming into a court of justice finds no credit. Now it is said, not with the strictest and most perfect correctness, that the prisoner was acquitted upon a point of law, and not upon the merits of the case. This, I am satisfied, is not true; the fact is,

is, that the improbability of the charge was the true ground upon which the acquittal took place; and certainly nothing could wear more the face of improbability than that, if the crime alleged had been committed, it would have been kept secret from the month of October to the June following; but it becomes still more improbable, when the situation of the parties is considered: the one a young woman of education and modesty, and the other a young man living in the same parish. Can any one believe, that the daughter of a clergyman could have been so ignorant of the state of society as not to know, that she would have been sufficiently protected from the violence with which she said she was threatened; or that she would, after having been so atrociously abused, under any feelings of terror, have lost a moment in proclaiming her disgrace, and asking for vengeance on her violater? but still less likely is it that she would have concealed a disgrace to which her own sister had been an eye-witness. These, I apprehend, were the grounds on which the acquittal took place, and not, as has been stated, on a mere rule of law. If the young woman had been treated with the violence she has described, she must and would have told her parent. That she was with child is a matter beyond doubt, and it might, by possibility, happen that this young man was the father of that child; but the violation must be put altogether out of the question. Even this surmise, which I have made for the benefit of the young woman, is set aside by the oath of the young

man himself, who swears most positively that he never had any connexion with her whatever; and that his evidence is at all deserving of discredit, I can in no respect discover. He is a respectable young man, and has given his testimony in a very unquestionable manner. I protest I was most anxious and desirous, for the sake of this unfortunate family, that something might occur which would lessen the enormity of their guilt. The natural compassion of one's feelings in seeing a man of education, and in holy orders, work up his mind to an offence for which there is no palliation, without using a harsher observation, led me to hope some circumstance might arise to lessen the enormity of his guilt. It is with pain, however, that I am driven to say no such circumstance has transpired. What could be the motives for concealing the real father, and fixing it on an innocent man, is beyond our ability to discover? If the charge of violation against James Harris is false, the next question for our consideration is, did the defendants agree to bring forward the charge, knowing it to be false? With respect to the young women, as they both swore to being present when the fact took place, no doubt of their guilt can exist. As to the father, perhaps the evidence is not so conclusive. In the defect of the evidence against the father, you have nothing but the general circumstances of the case, and the palpable falseness of the charge. You will consider whether the natural sagacity of a man of good education could really have persuaded him to give credit to so foul

foul a charge. If you are not fully satisfied of his guilt, you will acquit him by your verdict. The same observation applies to the daughters; but if you think they were all privy to the conspiracy, you will find your verdict accordingly.

The jury, after a few minutes consultation, found all the defendants Guilty.

Mr. Baron Graham immediately proceeded to pronounce sentence on the defendants. He observed, that during the whole of his judicial life he never felt more pain than in the performance of his duty on the present occasion. It was impossible to imagine a case more melancholy than that which was now before him: a clergyman of the Church of England, a character which stood so high in this country, convicted on the clearest and most satisfactory evidence, of of the most abominable and atrocious conspiracy—a crime which became still more dreadful from his having induced his two unfortunate daughters to follow him in his career, and to bear a part in his foul load of infamy. He confessed he knew not how to do justice. Compassion for the infirmities of human nature might induce him to alleviate the severity of punishment; but in this case all compassion was swallowed up in the contemplation of the scene before him—a scene which presented to his view a man, who, in spite of the benefits of education, and the dictates of religion, had sunk to the last degree of human crime.

The sentence of the court was, that the Rev. Robert Woodward should be imprisoned in the common gaol of the county of Bedford

for two years; and that his daughters, Sarah and Susannah, should each be imprisoned one year in the same gaol.

The defendants seemed deeply affected with their situation. Mr. Woodward is a man about 50 years of age. His eldest daughter, Sarah, has nothing prepossessing in her manners or person, and is about 25. The youngest, Susannah, is rather a pretty girl, of fair complexion. Their fate has excited but very little commiseration in the county.

COUNTY MEATH ASSIZES.

Trial of Roger O'Connor, Esq.

Second Day, Tuesday, Aug. 5.

A FEW minutes after nine o'clock this morning, Mr. Justice Daly resumed his seat on the bench, and the trial of Mr. O'Connor was immediately proceeded in.

When the officers of the court had taken their places at the table, Benjamin Rikey, Esq. the Deputy Clerk of the Crown, inquired, as is usual in cases where more than one prisoner is arraigned for the same offence, whether he (O'Connor) would join with his alleged coadjutor in the felony, in the challenges? He answered, that he would not.

It was then intimated to him by Mr. Rikey, that he would be tried separately from Martin M'Keon, who had just arrived in the custody of the under gaoler, and taken his station in the dock. Notwithstanding this intimation, the trial of M'Keon was subsequently proceeded in.

Some desultory conversation here ensued, between the counsel for the prosecution and Mr. Bennett,

nett, one of Mr. O'Connor's counsel, in reference to the panel, and to the manner of the challenges ; and after the usual formalities, the names of the panel, which were very numerous, were called over, on a fine of fifty pounds.

A considerable portion of time was consumed in recalling the panel, and owing to the many challenges made on behalf of the crown and prisoners. Notwithstanding the number that appeared to their names, the panel became exhausted, and it was now found necessary in order to complete the jury (four of the number of which were yet deficient) to select from those challenged, previously to the following gentlemen, who tried the issue, being sworn :—

John Ruxton, Esq.
 Henry Walsh, Esq.
 James Kellett, Esq.
 Henry Owens, Esq.
 William Henry, Esq.
 Christopher Carleton, Esq.
 John Ross, Esq.
 Frederick Dyas, Esq.
 Robert Sterne Tighe, Esq.
 Thomas E. Barnes, Esq.
 John Otway Cuffe, Esq. and
 James Somerville, Esq.

The four gentlemen last mentioned were those who had been objected to by the crown, but were called and sworn after the panel was exhausted.

The jury having been sworn, the prisoners were formally given them in charge.

It was suggested by Mr. O'Connor's counsel, that lists of the several witnesses to be examined on either side should be handed in to the judge, in order that they might be commanded to with-

draw, until respectively called upon to give evidence. In this arrangement the court and counsel for the prosecution readily acquiesced, and they, the witnesses, were ordered to retire accordingly.

The indictment having been read, Mr. Sergeant Jebb, as leading counsel for the prosecution, stated the case against the prisoners. The learned counsel confined himself to a simple relation of the facts which grounded the alleged charges of felony, and adverted in brief terms to the evidence and circumstances upon which he was instructed those charges would be sustained. In reference to Mr. O'Connor, personally, he regretted, as much as any individual even amongst the friends of that unfortunate Gentleman, the unhappy situation in which he was placed ; and sympathizing, as he did, in common with those around him, in its painfulness, he declared he should feel the most sincere gratification in his acquittal.

Mr. Bartholomew St. Leger, of Dublin, coal-factor, was the first witness called. He was the person from whom the watch and keys, for which the prisoners were arraigned, were stolen, and he merely proved that the mail was robbed on the 2d of October, 1812, at Cappagh-hill ; that he was a passenger ; and that these articles were taken from him.

The next witnesses were John Pollock, and Arthur Hill Cornwallis Pollock, Esqrs. Clerk of the Crown for the province of Leinster, who proved the record of the conviction of Richard Waring (brother to one of the approvers) for the mail robbery in question.

Michael

Michael Owens, the chief informer, was the next witness. He commenced by stating that he knew Mr. O'Connor, and was in his employment as labourer; recollected the robbery of the mail on the day laid in the indictment; was one of the party who robbed; that previous to the robbery M'Keon called upon him, and stated that Mr. O'Connor wanted to see him; that on his going to Dangan, Mr. O'Connor asked him whether he would join in robbing the Galway mail; the witness replied he would, but had not arms enough; that Mr. O'Connor said that he would provide arms; that witness said he wanted men also, having only four or five at command; that Mr. O'Connor mentioned that Heavy and Savage, two persons who had escaped from Trim gaol, and were then in the wood of Dangan, would join; that after considerable consultation with Mr. O'Connor, it was finally agreed that the following should be the persons employed — the two Warings [Richard and Daniel], the two Owenses [Michael and John], Cahir and Shaw, Heavy and Savage, and the prisoner M'Keon. That it was settled that all these should assemble at Dangan on the evening of the robbery; that they all did meet, with the exception of Daniel Waring (the other approver); that M'Keon was the person who opened the gate for them. After a consultation Mr. O'Connor brought witness down to the stable-yard, and delivered the necessary arms, together with 18 rounds of ball-cartridge, and a paper of gunpowder. Witness proceeded to state, that all the party, thus provided, with the

exception of M'Keon, repaired towards Cappagh-hill; Daniel Warren met them on the way. When they had arrived near their destination, witness dispatched all the party but Shaw to the turnpike-gate to tie it up, and to take away any arms that might be in the turnpike-house. The gate was secured, but before the house could be ransacked the coach approached. It was challenged to stop, on which the passengers called out to the guard to fire, and all the party but witness and Shaw retired. The latter fired upon the guard and killed him. He then mounted to the seat of the deceased, "threw him over," and took away the bags. All this time the witness stood at the head of the horses. The party that retreated soon came up, and proceeded to drag out the passengers and rifle their pockets. There was only one passenger respected, and he was a priest. Having accomplished their purpose, they all returned to Dangan. Mr. O'Connor was the person who received the party. On opening the gate he expressed a hope that they had had good luck. He then called M'Keon, who was his gate-keeper, and all the party proceeded to a private part of the demesne, termed Saints' Island: they there waited until day-light, and then proceeded to ascertain the nature of their booty. O'Connor sat on a ditch, and the remainder of the party on the grass under him. By O'Connor's direction they placed a hat in the centre of the group, and deposited all the money in it. O'Connor next proceeded to divide the booty. Each man's share of the notes taken out of the letters amounted to 450*l*. Each person's share

share of the money taken from the passengers amounted to 80*l*. O'Connor took the same proportion which the others got ; but he compelled Heavy and Savage to pay him 100*l*. each for the protection he had afforded them when they had broken out of Trim gaol : the arms they brought back to Dangan, O'Connor saying they would answer for the attack on the Enniskillen coach, which was then intended, it having been understood that it was conveying money to the army. Witness had been sworn to secrecy by O'Connor on the 1st of January, 1812. The object was, that he should rob for arms, and become a Carder. A part of the oath pledged those who took it " not to pity the moans or groans of Orange-men, but to wade knee deep in their blood." O'Connor stated, that when he should have a sufficient number of Carders embodied, he would surprise the plans of Government. Witness had been tried for the mail-robbery, and murder of the guard, and was acquitted. He then went to the county Cavan, and was arrested and tried there for passing some of the notes which had been taken out of the mail, but was acquitted. He was afterwards taken up for a robbery in the county of Dublin, and was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death in February, 1817. About three weeks after the sentence he gave information. He had been attended by his clergyman, and had made his confession in consequence of the advice he received from him. A Captain Mockler had called on him at Kilmainham, a few days previous to the day appointed for his execution.

The Captain stated the object of the visit to be, to know whether he (the witness) had ever said that he intended to go down to Meath, to try whether he could get a shot at him (Mockler). Witness denied he had ever spoken of or intended any such thing. Mockler said he believed him, though he was told that he had such a purpose in view. Mockler then proceeded to make some remarks, from which witness understood that there would be some hopes of pardon if he made a discovery. Witness thereupon observed, that as for Mr. O'Connor he had always given him the best advice, and that he would not be where he was if he had taken the advice. Witness was asked, whether it was true that O'Connor had given him the advice, and he answered, it was not true. He was then asked by a juror, whether at the time he made that statement to Mockler, his clergyman had not been attending him, and for a considerable time previous, and whether he had not received the sacrament from him ; to which he replied, that his clergyman, Dr. Lube, had been attending him nearly three weeks, and that he had administered the sacrament to him different times. The day of execution was drawing near, and Dr. Lube had held out no hopes of his being saved : and that notwithstanding all these circumstances he told the falsehood to Mr. Mockler, not wishing to implicate Mr. O'Connor. The day after the conversation with Mr. Mockler, Dr. Lube had called on him. Witness then told him he had something particular to communicate ; that hopes of pardon had

had been held out to him, if he would give information, and wished to know whether it would be criminal in him to give information against his accomplices. Dr. Lube answered, it would be doing a good act to rid the country of such characters, and advised him to give the information. Witness then wrote to Captain Mockler, who came to him; and he disclosed every thing. Mockler was accompanied by Alderman Darley, who took witness's informations.

On his cross-examination by Mr. Bennet, witness said he knew there were such places as hell and heaven—that he expected to go to heaven. He was at so many robberies that he could not tell the number of them. One of the blunderbusses found at Mr. O'Connor's had been taken out of the house of Richard Warren, and he was present on the occasion. He assisted in taking the other blunderbuss from the house of Garrett Dunn Richardson, in 1812. He was also present at the carding of a man named Walsh. He held Walsh while Waring carded him. The reason of his being carded, was, his having been understood to be a bad man in the parish, and one who would not contribute to the poor. He did not doubt but Walsh was a Catholic. He did not mind what his religion was, though the oath administered by Mr. O'Connor bound him not to mind the moans or groans of Orange-men. He did not know whether himself or Waring (the other approver) was the greater villain. He was robbing since 21; he is now 27, and thought he deserved hanging; it would be better for a man to be hanged than take

a false oath; it would, nevertheless, be better to break the Carders' oath, which he had taken, than keep it. He admitted, he was never employed to work directly by Mr. O'Connor, but was employed by M'Keon, who was Mr. O'Connor's task-man; M'Keon was not present at the dividing of the booty, being employed in keeping the other workmen from the place where the booty was divided. M'Keon had advised him to have nothing to do with mail robberies, as it was a bad business, and would cost him his life. When he first called on Mr. O'Connor he was not bound to secrecy. Mr. O'Connor merely asked him whether he would join in robbing the mail; he was not in the habit of going into Mr. O'C's parlour; when he met him on the demesne, he generally put his hand to his hat for Mr. O'C.; when he took off his hat, Mr. O'C. would desire him to put it on again. The party proceeded to open the letters, &c. about five in the morning, and had finished at eight; most of the party remained in the demesne of Dangan until evening. Three of the men had been hanged since the robbery. They died stout men, and gave no information against Mr. O'Connor, although they were not very stout in running away at the time of the attack on the mail. He believed he was the stoutest man amongst them, but he was not appointed captain of the gang. He had no more command than others. He had taken potatoe-ground from Mr. O'Connor; Mr. O'C. would not allow the potatoes to be removed until they were paid for; was not at home when the refusal

was

was given; he believes his brother-in-law passed his note for the price of the potatoes; Mr. O'Connor afterwards processed his brother-in-law for the amount of the note. He should not be well pleased with a man who would not serve his family as well as himself. Mr. O'Connor and he used to have religious discourses. A juror asked, "what religious discourses?" The witness answered, "Carding and taking of arms!" Witness was again asked, whether he could give a guess as to the number of crimes he was implicated in, and he answered, he could not. The examination of this witness did not close until within ten minutes of four o'clock.

Richard Waring proved the robbery of his house of a blunderbuss. (A blunderbuss was produced to witness, which he identified as the one of which he had been robbed.)

Garret Richardson examined.—His house was robbed, in 1812, of a blunderbuss. [A blunderbuss was produced, but witness could not identify it. It was like one which he possessed, but he could not positively swear it was the same.]

Mr. Wallace, as counsel for Mr. O'Connor, said, he was willing to admit it was the blunderbuss which was stolen from the witness, but that he would show how it got into the possession of Mr. O'Connor's family.

Mr. Sergeant Jebb observed, that the admission of the learned counsel was wise and candid.

Thomas Thompson, Esq. solicitor to the post-office, stated, that in consequence of information which he received through Owens,

he went to Dangan, in company with Alderman Darley and Captain Mockler. He proceeded to the house of the younger Mr. O'Connor, on the Dangan demesne, and situated at a short distance from the prisoner's house, and there found the two blunderbusses which had been exhibited to the last witnesses. He found them in the bed-room of Mr. O'Connor, standing against the chimney, in a conspicuous situation, and not in any manner concealed. He received information concerning a watch, and seized an article of that description, which he had met with, but found on examination it was not such a one as was described to him; he therefore returned it. This witness next proceeded to state, that he met Mr. O'Connor at the assizes of Naas, where he attended to prosecute the Owenses. He observed, in a jocose way, that "wherever the Owenses were to be tried, he was sure to meet Mr. O'Connor." Mr. O'C. replied, that "they were as great vagabonds as existed." The witness mentioned, that notwithstanding that assertion of Mr. O'Connor, he appeared at the trial, and gave these persons a general good character; which surprised witness so much, that he had him cross-examined as to the fact of his having had the conversation with him respecting these individuals previous to the trial. Mr. O'C., as witness affirmed, had not denied that he talked of the Owenses as being very bad persons, but that he was not serious when he spoke of them. Witness got nothing in the house of Mr. O'Connor, jun. but the blunderbusses; and that, as to the house of Dangan, the searching

searching of that place was left to Alderman Darley.

On being cross-examined by Mr. Wallace, he repeated that the blunderbusses were quite exposed.

Richard Waring, the other approver, was examined at much length. A great portion of his evidence relative to the circumstances of the robbery, &c. agreed with that given by Owens. He said that he was not present at the consultation at Dangan, having had to go for a blunderbuss which he had concealed in a bog. He stated, that on the return of the party from the robbery, Mr. O'Connor had opened the gate for them, hoping that they had good luck; and that he (Mr. O'Connor) had held the blunderbuss of one of the party while he went into M'Keon's house to light his pipe. He distinctly affirmed that M'Keon advised him to cease robbing houses for arms, &c. as it was an unprofitable pursuit, and take up the better occupation of mail-robbing. He stated that he, as well as his associate Owens, was concerned in innumerable criminalties. He had taken the Carder's oath at the instigation of Mr. O'Connor, but his description of it was different from that which Owens had given. It bound persons, according to his statement, merely to "support anarchy and put down monarchy." He was present at the carding of Walsh, who had been held while the witness performed with his own hand that operation. Walsh, however, was not left long in his hands. He said he had "only two or three touches at him," the instrument of torture being given to abler and better hands. He operated on

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Walsh's back—his successor on the backs of Walsh's legs. His statement of some of the circumstances of the division of the booty was similar to that of Owens. He alleged, however, that the adjustment did not take place until about five o'clock in the evening, and that from the time Mr. O'Connor placed himself on the ditch until that hour he took no refreshment. Mr. Wallace asked, whether the rest of the gang had not taken refreshment. Witness answered they had. Then, said Mr. W., it appears you acted very unceremoniously towards your captain. On being again questioned about M'Keon's advice relative to robberies, he admitted that it was against all crimes of that description, as they would only lead to the gallows. He was reminded by Counsel that he gave a different statement before, to which he replied that M'Keon advised both for and against robberies.

John Allen, farmer, was the next witness. He remembered the 4th of October, 1812. He saw Mr. O'Connor on that day, having received a note from that gentleman, desiring him to call on him. Mr. O'Connor asked whether he had not heard of the mail-robbery of the 2d, and he answered, he had. He then asked, what would witness think if he heard the mail had been found on Dangan demesne? Witness answered, he should be sorry to hear it was the case, as, from the circumstance of a bag having before been found there, it would have a bad appearance in the country. O'Connor then brought him into a room, and showed him, lying on a table, the mail bags, some newspapers, lottery tickets,

P

broken

broken notes, &c. He further asked witness, whether he could keep a secret? To which he replied, that he never abused any confidence that was reposed in him. O'Connor then asked him, if he had not been security for the gaoler of Trim, and whether he was not, in consequence, likely to be a sufferer by the escape of Heavy and Savage? Witness replied, he was security. O'Connor then said, that he had reason to know that Savage was lurking about Dangan, and that he would put witness in the way of securing him. On being asked whether any oath was proposed to him by O'Connor, he said there was not. O'Connor had a red book in his hand at the time of asking him whether he could keep a secret, but proposed no oath. O'Connor had asked him what he would advise him to do with the bags, and witness answered, to send them to the postmaster of Summerhill.

On his cross-examination, this witness stated, that he considered the secret he had to keep was, that Mr. O'Connor had interfered in procuring the re-taking of Savage. He further asserted, that he took Mr. O'Connor's interposition on this occasion to be an act of kindness, and intended to show his gratitude to the witness, and his brother-in-law, the gaoler, for acts of civility received, while he (Mr. O'Connor) was confined in Trim gaol, for an assault, for which he had been convicted.

Mr. Lube was next called.—Being asked had he given any advice to Owens on the subject of the present prosecution, said, that any professionally private communion he had with Owens he was

not at liberty to disclose, meaning, as we suppose, in his capacity as a clergyman; that Owens had asked him (Mr. Lube) “if it would be criminal in him (Owens) to make a discovery in order to save his own life, for that proposals had been made to him to that effect?” that he (Mr. Lube) asked Owens, had he any discovery of importance to make? that Owens answered in the affirmative; that he (Mr. Lube) immediately laid a solemn injunction on Owens, not to name the parties to him (Mr. Lube), inasmuch and for that it did not belong to him to be made acquainted with it; but added, that if he (Owens) knew of any gang of robbers who were disturbing the peace of the country, he (Owens) would “do well” to “divulge it,” and that, provided he “adhered to truth,” he (Mr. Lube) saw nothing criminal in it.

[This conversation, Mr. Lube said, took place in the presence of a third person, one Reynolds; and after, as we have above stated, proposals had been made to Owens to save his life.]

Mr. Lube, having been asked how long he had been attending Owens after his conviction, before the above conversation took place, replied, about three weeks; and to a question, did Owens at that time entertain any hopes of a reprieve? replied, he did not; nor did he (Mr. Lube) hold out any hopes to him.

Question by Mr. M'Nally.—Did witness believe it was with a view to save his life that Owens gave the information? Mr. Lube said, he ‘verily believed it was.’

Robert Gilbert, a Dublin police officer, stated that he arrested Mr. O'Connor,

O'Connor, at Palace Anne, in the county of Cork, the house of Mr. Barnard, a magistrate of that county. He shewed the warrant to Barnard. When Mr. O'C. saw it, he said it was illegal, inasmuch as the word "felonious" was not in it. He believed Mr. O'C. made that observation for the purpose of showing the offence with which he was charged was bailable. Witness thought it was bailable. He did not know against whom he had the warrant, until he went to Cork, and thought, when he saw Mr. O'Connor, and the respectable house he was in, he might have made a mistake as to the person. On asking Mr. O'C. whether he was of Dangan, he answered he was.

On his cross-examination this witness admitted Mr. O'C. was repeatedly out of his custody. He thought that if Mr. O'C. had resisted he would have been unable to bring him to Dublin, though he was determined, if there had been any serious opposition, to have shot Mr. O'C. While Mr. O'C. had been out of witness's custody, he was in that of a Captain White. Witness was asked whether he had not brought handcuffs with him from Dublin, and was not of opinion that he would render himself agreeable to persons in power if he had treated his prisoner with indignity. He answered, that bringing the handcuffs was accidental, as when he left town he knew not whom he was going to arrest. He received no instructions respecting treatment when he set out.

The case on behalf of the Crown having closed, Mr. M'Nally, as counsel for M'Keon, said it was

not necessary for him to call a single witness.

Mr. Wallace, as leading counsel for Mr. O'Connor, said he would pursue the same course as Mr. M'Nally, if life only was at stake; but here, the honour of a gentleman, which was more dear than life itself, was at stake, and for that purpose alone he would call witnesses, by whom Mr. O'Connor's character would be so purged, that malice itself dare not raise its shaft against him.

Francis Burdett O'Connor, Esq. was then called. The two blunderbusses above spoken of were produced; he stated that he had found them in a rabbit-hole in the demesne of Dangan, in the November following the mail robbery; they were then in their present state, without locks. He brought them to a house occupied by his brother and two sisters. Subsequently his brother removed to a new house, and these blunderbusses, were brought away, he supposed by the workmen, with other lumber out of the store-room in which they were originally deposited, and put into the room where his brother slept, in the new house, and laid against the fire place. He was present when the plundered mail-bags were discovered in the wood of Dangan, and information of the circumstance was sent to the post-office.

There was no cross-examination of this witness.

Leonard M'Nally, Esq. deposed, that he attended at the Naas Assizes, where the Owensses were tried. Mr. O'Connor was there, and examined as a witness. He said he once thought the pri-

soners were persons of good character, but had changed his opinion of them.

Mr. Bernard M'Guire, attorney, corroborated Mr. M'Nally's testimony.

John Pratt Winter, Esq. a magistrate of the county of Meath, stated, that on his return from the fair of Ballinasloe, after the mail robbery, he had used active endeavours to discover the perpetrators of the deed. He received information that M'Keon was concerned, on which he proceeded to the house of Mr. O'Connor. Mr. O'Connor immediately went with him in search of M'Keon, and having found him where he was superintending some work, they closely examined him, and proceeded to his house, and made diligent search, without being able to discover any thing that could tend to show he (M'Keon) was in the smallest degree concerned in the outrage. Mr. O'Connor afterwards called on him, and offered to give all the aid in his power in bringing the robbers to justice, though he seldom interfered in matters of the kind.

Michael Parry, Esq. agent to Mr. O'Connor, deposed, that on the 2d of November, 1811, he had remitted to Mr. O'C. 4793*l.*; that on the 17th of August, 1812, he remitted him 1400*l.*; and that, on the 27th of September, 1812, he sent him 500*l.* for the purpose of purchasing cattle at the fair of Ballinasloe. He had enclosed the 500*l.* in a letter to Mr. O'C., and had written to the Bank of Ireland, making them acquainted with the circumstance, and desiring them not to pay the notes to any order but that of Mr. O'Con-

nor. His letter to Mr. O'C. was then in Court, and he said he would, if permitted, refer to it. The letter was handed to him, and he read from it a mention of the enclosure of the money. Since the commencement of his intercourse with Mr. O'Connor, their money-dealings amounted to 25,000*l.*, and that at the time of the alleged robbery he would have transmitted him 2000*l.* if he wanted it. In the course of his dealings he never met with a more honourable or upright man. Witness further stated, that the amount of Mr. O'Connor's rental in Cork was 1800*l.* per annum.

Jeremiah Keller, Esq. barrister at law, stated he had known Mr. O'Connor for a great number of years, during which they had been intimate friends. Mr. O'Connor was formerly of the Munster bar. Speaking generally of his character, he conceived it to be excellent. He would mention an instance of his disinterestedness and generosity. He had married a lady in early life without a fortune, notwithstanding which he had made a most liberal settlement upon her. Witness knew him afterwards to support the lady's father in a creditable style, which he continued to do until his death. He thought it next to an impossibility that he would be guilty of such an act as had been imputed to him.

Sir Francis Burdett said, he was acquainted with Mr. O'Connor since 1796, about the period he (Sir F.) had returned to England. He always entertained the highest opinion of his honour and principles. On being asked whether he had any money transactions with
Mr.

Mr. O'Connor, he answered it was unpleasant to allude to such matters, but as it was conceived to be useful to Mr. O'Connor's defence, he would mention, that embarrassments, which he need not particularize, had rendered different small advances to Mr. O'Connor necessary, and of which he, Sir Francis, had never made any memorandum. A circumstance having, at one time, occurred, which he would not then explain, he had written to Mr. O'Connor to place 400*l.* to his credit at his banker's. Mr. O'Connor in answer wrote to him, saying he had not a demand for 400*l.* but 1000*l.*, and enclosed him his bond for that amount. On witness's next meeting him, he told Mr. O'C. he had entirely misunderstood his intentions, and returning the bond, desired him to pay the money at his convenience. Witness said he was once before in Ireland for a short time, and that his present visit was for the purpose of serving Mr. O'C. as far as he was able. He was then asked from what he had known of Mr. O'Connor, and calling him as he did his friend, what were his feelings on hearing of the charge of felony which had been preferred against him. Sir Francis replied with great emphasis, "I thought I should have sunk into the earth." Counsel observed that it was well known the witness was a gentleman of large fortune, and asked him whether or not he would have advanced him money if he had applied to him, at the period of the imputed offence? Sir Francis replied, "I know not the sum of money that I would not have

placed at his disposal if he had applied to me."

The learned judge (Daly) addressed a few words to the jury. He said there was certainly legal evidence to go to the jury; but, in the course of his experience, he never knew a charge so strongly rebutted as that which it was produced to sustain. If the jury felt any reasonable doubts, he would recapitulate the evidence; but if they thought with him, it was unnecessary for him to do so.

The foreman of the jury replied, that himself and his brethren were all of his lordship's opinion.

The verdict of acquittal was immediately pronounced; it excited the extremest joy—the manifestations of it in the court were of an unusual kind, the waving of hats, handkerchiefs, and sticks. The effect without was instantaneous. The town caught the enthusiasm of the auditory within, and shouts of joy interrupted, for a considerable time, the closing of this very interesting scene.

OLD BAILEY, JULY 7.

Child Stealing.—Harriet Molineux Hamilton was indicted for feloniously and maliciously taking, stealing, and carrying away a certain male child of the age of six months, the son of Henry Porter, with intent to deprive the said Henry Porter of the custody of the said child. In other counts the prisoner was charged with stealing certain wearing apparel of the said child, the property of the said Henry Porter.

The prisoner was brought into court at about 10 o'clock, extremely well dressed. At her desire

sire the witnesses were ordered out of court. The following were the witnesses examined :—

Louisa Wood, a child of 14 years of age, lived with the prosecutor, a butcher, residing in Quebec Street, Portman Square, as servant girl. On Friday, the 6th of June last, she had the care of a little boy of six months old, and at about half-past five in the evening of that day went out to take a walk with it. While opposite Lady Montague's house in Portman Square, in company with two other girls, who also had children under their care, the prisoner came up, and said to witness, "What a pretty child you have there." The prisoner gave the two girls in company with witness a penny each, telling them at the same time to go and take a walk. They did go, and as soon as they were gone the prisoner said to witness, "I want to speak to you," and added, "will you go an errand for me?" Witness asked how far she wanted her to go, and she replied, "I want you to go to No. 21, Lower Berkeley Street, and I will hold the child for you in the mean time." Witness said "No, no, I will take the child with me;" but, however, was afterwards induced to give the child to the prisoner. As directed, witness then went to Lower Berkeley Street, but finding only 19 houses in the street, she immediately returned. Previous to going to Berkeley Street, the prisoner gave her sixpence, and had given her sixpence before that. She told witness to go to a young woman in Berkeley Street, to tell her to come directly. On returning to Portman Square, she

found the prisoner and the child were gone.

John Armrod, a waterman at the stand of hackney coaches in Paddington Street, deposed, that a little before seven o'clock the prisoner came to the stand with a child in her arms, and took a chariot, driven by a person of the name of Woolhead.

Thomas Woolhead was the owner and driver of a chariot; and on the 6th of June last was on the Paddington-street stand. About seven o'clock the prisoner came with a child in her arms, and got into his coach. After having told him to drive to Piccadilly, she ordered him to go to Charing-cross, and to drive fast. Witness heard the child cry while on the way to Charing-cross, and upon looking back into the coach saw distinctly the prisoner changing the child's clothes; she put a clean frock and cap upon it. When he got to Charing-cross, and having opened the coach-door, the prisoner said, "Coachman, I won't stop here; go on over Westminster-bridge." Witness followed her directions, and when he arrived at Vauxhall, where the roads part, said, "Madam, which way am I to go:" she told him to drive to the Elephant and Castle, and at the same time told him to drive gently, as she said the shaking of the coach frightened the child. Witness went past the Elephant and Castle, expecting further orders. Presently the prisoner looked out of the window, and asked, "Where is this Elephant and Castle, coachman?" Witness said, that he had come past it; and, upon the prisoner asking

asking what place she was at then, he said it was the Bricklayers' Arms. The prisoner immediately cried out, "O! that is right, I believe, for it is from this place the Brighton Coaches go." Witness said, that it was not, and that the Brighton coaches went from the Elephant and Castle. At this time the child was very "wranglesome." The prisoner asked for something to drink, and witness brought it to her. While she was drinking, seeing her in trouble, he said, "Dear me, why do you flurry yourself so much: the child is only a little wranglesome and cross." Witness then went back as desired to the Elephant and Castle; and when he arrived, by her request, asked whether there was any stage, or return chaise, going to Brighton. There, however, was no conveyance of any kind going that road. After having got a little milk for the child, and some more drink for the prisoner, she asked him what he would charge to take her to Croydon? Witness replied that he would take her for 25s. She said it was too much, but finding she could get no other conveyance, she said, "I find you are very civil, and I wish you would go with me." The agreement was made, and witness was to stop at a house or two on the road, to give something to the child. He then proceeded on the road, and when he arrived at Streatham, the child again began to be "wranglesome." He stopped at the Horse and Groom, where the child was nursed and fed for about 20 minutes. He arrived at Croydon at about half-past 10 o'clock at night, and the prisoner, after paying for

the coach, took a return chaise, and told the post-boy to drive to Brighton. At about half-past two in the morning witness got back to London, and upon going into his room as usual, his wife said to him, "Why, Woolhead, there has been a hue and cry after you; there is a child stolen." In consequence of the information of his wife, the witness went to Mr. Porter's house, and after some conversation, put a pair of horses to his coach, and set off with the prosecutor and his father in search of the prisoner. He first went to Croydon, then to Reigate, to Crawley, Brighton, and from thence to Chichester, where he arrived about two o'clock in the evening of the next day, and there saw the prisoner and the child at the Golden Fleece inn.

Henry Porter was a butcher by trade, and resided at No. 3, Quebec-street, Portman-square. He was married on the 14th of April, 1816. In the month of June last Louisa Wood was employed in his service, to attend particularly to his child. About half-past five in the evening of the 6th of June she went out with the child to take a walk, and about a quarter before seven o'clock a person informed him that his child was stolen. Witness and his wife immediately went in search of the child, one going one way and the other another. At a little before three in the morning Woolhead came to his house; and witness, in company with his father, proceeded in a coach to Chichester. He found the prisoner at the Golden Fleece at Chichester. She was then leaning over the child, which was lying crying on the bed. Witness
said

said to his child, "Ah! Henry, what have I found you;" and the child immediately began to smile. The prisoner appeared much confused. He immediately went for a constable, and had her taken into custody, carried up to London, and placed in Marylebone watchhouse.

After some further evidence, the prisoner handed in a paper of four or five folio sheets, in her defence, in which she stated that in taking the child she had no malicious intention, or depriving the parents of their child for any length of time. It then proceeded at much length to enter into a statement of the facts of the case; and concluded with beseeching that the jury would duly weigh all the evidence, and not to suffer their minds to be influenced by public reports.

The jury found a verdict of Guilty.

HUNTINGDON ASSIZES, JULY.

This was an indictment against Jane, the widow of John Scarborough, a respectable innkeeper at Bugden, on the North-road. The prisoner, a respectable looking woman, about 40 years of age, stood at the bar, accompanied by her daughter, a beautiful young woman about 19. The indictment charged the prisoner with feloniously stealing a letter, containing a remittance of a 20l. Bank of England note, from Richard Preston, Esq. of Lincoln's-inn, barrister at law, M.P. which was addressed to his son, W. S. Preston, Esq. a pupil of the Rev. Dr. Maltby, at Bugden. In the first count the note was charged to be the

property of R. Preston, Esq. sen. and in the second count as the property of W. S. Preston, Esq. jun.

John Sharp, clerk to Mr. Preston, sen. proved the sending of the letter on the 16th of October, 1815, and Mathew Cromartie proved the delivery of it to the bellman, who put it in his bag.

James Fisher Park, letter-carrier for Charlotte-street, Blackfriars-road, had no recollection of receiving the letter on the 16th of October, 1815; but if he did receive it, is positive he forwarded it the same evening to the General Post-office. The letters being once put into the bag could not be taken out till the bag was received at the Post-office, where the key was kept.

Philip Franks, clerk in the General Post-office, stated, that if the letter was put into the bag in Charlotte-street, he had no doubt whatever that the letter must have been forwarded.

Wm. Joseph Wall, teller in the General Post-office, made up the bags for the York mail. If such letter came to his hands, he had no doubt it was regularly forwarded by the mail-coach to Huntingdon.

John Hatfield, post-master at Huntingdon, received and forwarded the letters for Bugden as received on the 17th of October.

Wm. Cox, an elderly man, stated that he is post-master at Bugden. On the morning of the 17th of October, 1815, remembers that he received by the bag from Huntingdon a letter, which he delivered to Mrs. Scarborough, the prisoner at the bar. He took it to her

her because he could not make out the direction, which was much blotted, and not legible. Mrs. Scarborough received it from witness at the bar of the George inn at Bugden, saying, "I know the gentleman for whom it is directed, and will deliver it to him; you had better leave it." Witness saw Mrs. Scarborough some days after, who informed him the letter had been safely delivered to the person to whom it was directed. On cross-examination, witness admitted that he was frequently in the habit of delivering letters to the prisoner for persons whom he did not know, and particularly for travellers upon the North-road, who put up at her inn. He is positive that letter was never returned to him. When Dr. Maltby came to the witness, some days after this letter should have been received, witness told Dr. M. he had no recollection of having received any such letter. It was not till several months after, when witness received a letter on the subject from the Postmaster-general, that he recollected that on the day in question he delivered a letter to the prisoner, the direction upon which he could not distinctly read. The circumstance inquired into by Dr. Maltby did not bring it to the recollection of witness then; but near twelve months after, the letter he received from the Postmaster-general brought these circumstances and conversation with the prisoner to his entire and perfect recollection.

Mr. Wm. Scott Preston, stated that he was a pupil of Dr. Maltby, from May 15, until the following September; his letters, of which he received many from his father

and other persons, generally franked by his father, were all severally received, except the one in question; and it was not until some days after its miscarriage, that, having been disappointed of a remittance, he ascertained the fact of such letter never having been received.

Cross-examined. Does not recollect whether or not he received a letter on the 17th of October; but is certain that he never received the letter in question.

Wm. Jervis, clerk to an attorney at Peterborough, had an interview with Mr. Bond, an attorney at Leicester, together with Mrs. Scarborough, at the Bell inn, Stilton, kept by Mr. Green, who is son of the prisoner. Mr. Bond had a claim against Mr. Green of 48*l.* which Mrs. Scarborough paid for her son, to Mr. Bond. The payment consisted of one note for 20*l.* one for 10*l.* three for 5*l.* and three 1*l.* notes. These Mr. Bond put in his pocket, and took away with him.

Mr. Robt. Bond stated, that he is an attorney at Leicester. He had a debt against Mr. Green, son of the prisoner, and came to the inn at Stilton for the purpose of obtaining payment. He did not see Mr. Green, but saw the prisoner, who paid him the notes in question. He put them into his pocket with other notes, but he had no other Bank of England notes in his pocket than those he received from the prisoner. On Thursday following he paid the 20*l.* to Mr. Price of Leicester. This was about the 20th of September last.

Mr. Price lives at Leicester. He received that note from last witness on the 23d of September, 1816.

1816. He immediately forwarded it to Mr. Fourdrinier, wholesale stationer in London.

Mr Charles Fourdrinier proved the receipt and delivery to Henry Hunt, his clerk.

Henry Hunt received the note from his employer, and marked it as received from Mr. J. Price, of Leicester. He took it to the Bank, where it was stopped as stolen property.

Mrs. Scarborough (who bore this investigation with great composure, that might have credited her innocence), gave in a written defence to the following effect:—
“She trusted in her deliverance from the present charge, which she did not blame her prosecutors for instituting against her. She could only lament, that she had fallen under it through the most strange and unhappy circumstances. She trusted the honourable judge and the jury who tried her would allow her to know herself incapable of such a crime as dishonesty. She had held her situation for 30 years, and for 20 years as innkeeper herself, since the death of her husband. She had brought up a family of sons and daughters in respectability, all of whom, except the one who sat beside her, were well married, and themselves had families. Many thousands of pounds had passed through her hands in carrying on an extensive business; and the first families, including nobility, were in the habit of using her house. These would not suspect her of dishonesty, much less that she should have committed such an act as that with which she was now charged. She had no knowledge of this letter. Let-

ters were frequently left at her house for strangers, whom she knew not further than their inquiring for letters so left with her. The 20*l.* note she gave to Mr. Bond she received of a stranger who came to Stilton, and changed horses, only a day or two before. She had no means of finding out who he was; he sat on the dicky of the coach, and her servants would prove the fact that she so took it: but she added, she did not believe it was the same note which she was charged with paying to Mr. Bond. She lamented that the gentlemen of the post-office, who were in fact both prosecutors and witnesses against her, had thought proper to bring her to trial. All she could rely upon for her defence was a character until this time, not merely unimpeached, but free from suspicion. She regretted the absence of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, and of John Hodgson, Esq. as they would have added to the honourable testimony she should produce in favour of her general character. She trusted to the favourable reception she hoped to receive from the court and jury, that she and her family might be once more restored to happiness and peace of mind; and that which alone could restore her to society and the respect of mankind, which she and her family had so long enjoyed, was a verdict of Not guilty.”

The prisoner's counsel called her servants.

Thomas Standish, a waiter, said he returned this letter to Cox, the post-master, by desire of his mistress. He did not put it into his hand, but laid it on the table of the kitchen, where Cox then was.

Her

Her housekeeper and hostler saw her take a 20*l.* note of a stranger the day before she paid Mr. Bond. They could not swear to the identity of the note.

The following witnesses were then called to her general character: Sir James Jubilee, George Thornton, Esq. Lawrence Reynolds, Esq. Dr. Maltby, George James Gora, Esq. banker, Dr. Alaway, &c.

Chief Justice Gibbs remarked upon the strong testimony and coincidence of circumstances to prove the prisoner guilty. There was, however, great allowance to be made for persons in her situation not being able to account for the possession of notes which might be changed at her house by strangers passing or using her house, and whom she could know nothing of. The jury would say to which side the evidence preponderated, and return their verdict accordingly.

The jury retired till a late hour. The judge having gone home to his lodgings, waited to receive their verdict. After several hours' deliberation, they found the prisoner Guilty—Death.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.—MARCH 7.

Setting fire to Hay and Barley Stacks.—William Archer, an opulent farmer, who had been out upon his own recognizance, was indicted capitally, for maliciously setting fire to two ricks, on the 27th of July last, at the parish of Great Bourton, the property of Ann Buckett; and John Haycock, also a considerable farmer, was capitally indicted for feloniously

setting the said ricks on fire, or with being an accessory thereto. The trial is one of the greatest importance. When the prisoners were put upon their trial, Mr. Justice Park commented with considerable force on the impropriety of Archer being admitted to bail upon a charge of such a heinous and important nature.

John Buckett deposed, that he is son to the prosecutrix, Mrs. Ann Buckett, of Great Bourton: she rented a small farm there. On the 27th July his mother had the misfortune to have her ricks burnt; the fire took place about two o'clock in the morning; they were barley, and clover hay. The barley was of the year 1815 harvest, the hay was of the summer 1816. They stood about half a mile from his mother's house, between 18 and 20 yards from each other. The clover rick was not thatched: it had been put together about ten days: it was put together dry: it was not at all heated. There is a footpath from thence down to Great Bourton. On the night before, at ten o'clock, witness came home, and found one Ward at his mother's house. Witness went to bed a little before eleven o'clock, and at two o'clock he was awoke, and found the clover rick nearly burnt down, and the other about half burnt. The wind was north-west, and blew from the barley to the clover rick, and if the clover rick was set on fire, the barley rick could not have been burnt. The barley rick would have taken longer to have been burnt. The outsides of both ricks were burnt. About seven yards from the clover rick there was some straw, which was
not

not at all burnt. Witness was the first person who was at the rick : the ricks were totally destroyed, with the exception of a cart load of the clover (it was the middle part), and a bushel of barley. If the clover rick had fired from heat, it would have begun in the middle.

The prisoner Haycock lived in the village, and Archer lived about eighty yards from witness's mother's house. A great many neighbours came to their assistance ; but neither of the prisoners came. About four o'clock in the morning, witness went to trace footsteps : the grass was wet with dew, and about twenty yards from the rick he discovered a distinct trace of footsteps, and he followed the trace to the prisoner Archer's garden-gate ; it was the trace of one person ; they were from the rick : some part of the steps were traced where there was no footpath : witness could not trace them beyond the prisoner's gate, because the yard was paved. There were no tracks as from the house of the prisoner Archer. John Allett accompanied witness, and saw the footsteps within 20 yards of Archer's gate. The traces were of a small foot, and the right one was a splay ; it turned out more than the other. The prisoner Archer has a small foot, and it turned out more than any person's in the parish. On the same day, witness went to the house of Smith, a shoemaker, in consequence of information he received, and the constable who accompanied him demanded a pair of shoes. He asked him for a pair of shoes of Archer's ; and Smith produced them ; they were very wet and dirty ; grass and clover

were sticking to them : the clover was short. There was clover-grass and clover-hay, and the clover-hay appeared like that of the rick which had been burnt. The shoes had been mended. Witness measured the length and width of the shoes, and found them correspond with the marks on the grass. The footsteps must have been after the dew had fallen. The boys who had called " Fire ! " might have gone down the village without prisoner Archer hearing the alarm.

John Allett was raised by the alarm of fire, and accompanied last witness to trace the foot-steps : witness corroborated the greater part of the testimony of the last witness ; and added, that there was a lane at the back of the house, in which the footsteps must be visible, had the same person gone across it whose marks were traced through the fields : he saw the shoes only in the morning, and they did not appear to want mending, but in the afternoon he saw them again, and they were then patched ; witness examined the rick the day before the fire, preparatory to thatching it, and there was not the slightest heat in it.

John Batchelor, a constable of Great Bourton, accompanied John Buckett to Smith's, the shoemaker, for the prisoner's shoes : Smith produced them, (this was between four and five o'clock in the afternoon) : witness proved that they were damp and patched, and had grass and dirt on them : witness produced them.

Thomas Smith, a shoe-maker, remembered Batchelor coming after the prisoner's shoes ; witness pointed

pointed to them, and the constable picked them up. Mrs. Archer brought these shoes to him about half-past eight in the morning of the fire.—Cross-examined. They were quite dry when they were brought to him; witness damped them previous to mending them, it was usual to do so—they wanted mending. Witness was to have fetched them the day before, but he had not time.—Re-examined. Witness mended them both; he did not wet the upper leathers at all. It had been done four hours before the constable came. He took no notice of any grass being on them.

The Rev. T. H. Chamberlain said, the shoes were produced before him on Monday, the 29th of July; they were dry then, but had the appearance of having been very wet; they were stiff and stubborn.

Richard Buckett was from home when the fire happened. About three or four weeks before, witness saw the prisoner, who said, short and sharp, “Hang you, you shan’t make a road across my place.” Witness told him he would not, and would likewise charge his family not to do it, and he hoped he (the prisoner) would not come upon his premises. Some words arose about a robbery, and witness told the prisoner, “that if a neighbour saw another robbed, and did not tell him of it, he was as bad as he that robbed him.” Prisoner said “—— your eyes, if you say any thing more about me, I will do for you.” Witness spoke to the state of the hay; it was cut on the 20th or the 21st of June, and on

the 11th of July last put into a waggon. It was perfectly dry.

William Allett remembered the fire. On the evening of the 24th of July he went to the Swan public-house, and found the prisoner Archer there; he was talking with witness’s brother. The prisoner appeared much agitated, and was expressing vengeance against some persons; said he would do them a private injury. Witness sat down, and the prisoner said, “—— them Bucketts; I will do them a private injury in a little time.” Witness asked how they had affronted him? Prisoner said he could mention two points of Scripture to him, viz. “Do unto all men as you would have them do unto you.” Witness told him if that were done, no private injury would be done to any man; and told him he should like to hear the second. Prisoner said, “Do as you would be done by;” “and I’ll be —— if I don’t.” Prisoner replied (laying hold of his left hand) “that he wished his right arm might drop from his shoulder-blade, if he did not do the Bucketts a private injury.” Witness told a Mr. Gardner of what had passed between them before the fire happened.

Thomas Allett was present at the Swan inn, at Bourton, with the prisoner Archer: he was threatening the Bucketts family, and had been so before witness’s brother came in. Immediately witness got into the house, he wished his arm might drop from his shoulder if he did not do the Bucketts some private injury.

John Coleman stated, that he was a farmer, living near Great Bourton; was at the Greyhound public-

public-house on the Friday before the fire happened. The prisoner Haycock came in after witness. A man, named John Ward, was there, and witness heard a conversation between Ward and Haycock. Haycock said, "that the Bucketts blamed him and Archer for stabbing their horse (they had a horse stabbed); and added, that they had better take care what they said, or they would have another injury done them that night, or the next, and their ricks would be set on fire the next night, " — his heart." Witness said, " — you, Haycock; if you do that, you will be hanged or transported, and we shall be brought to book for it," and he turned away. Ward and Haycock went off together. Witness saw Haycock some time after the fire happened, and he accused witness of having said something about the conversation they had at the public-house; witness told him he had not.

Purser, servant to the last witness, was at the Greyhound on the day before the fire, and heard Haycock tell John Ward, "that there would be an injury done to the Bucketts that night or the next, and that Buckett's ricks would be set on fire that night or the next, — his heart."

John Ward, a carpenter, was at the public-house on the night before the fire; the prisoner Haycock was there; witness had some conversation with Haycock, who told witness that he had bigger enemies in the town than Archer; the Bucketts stared him in the face, and he would find them out in time; adding, that the Bucketts had better take care what they said

about them, or that they would have an injury done them that night or the next. Haycock said that their ricks would be set on fire. Witness rode home behind the prisoner Haycock, and their whole conversation was about the Bucketts. After they arrived at Great Bourton, witness, instead of going home, went to Mrs. Buckett, and told her what had passed, and they talked of sitting up, but that was at last abandoned.

Elizabeth Watts, servant at the Greyhound, saw the prisoner Haycock; Coleman, Ward, and others were there; and she heard Haycock say that Archer told him something would happen that night.

Mr. Hamplin was present when Haycock was examined; his examination was taken down in writing. It was produced, and Mr. Chamberlain proved that it was taken before him; but it appearing that the prisoner had not signed it, Mr. Justice Park would not permit it to be received as evidence against the prisoner; but Mr. Hamplin, who took the examination, was allowed to refresh his memory from it, and he stated, that the prisoner said he was at the public house the night the fire happened; he went home and went to bed, and was not out of his house until eight o'clock the next morning.

Sarah Watts lived at Bourton; remembered the night of the fire: she had been out that night, and between 11 and 12 o'clock she met the prisoner Haycock going towards his own house: witness spoke to him.

Wm. Watts proved that he was with

with his wife when they met the prisoner Haycock ; it was about a quarter past eleven.

Thomas Robins and Wm. Dale proved that the clover rick was in good order, and not the least heated. This closed the case ; and Archer being called on for his defence, said he knew nothing about it : that he was in his house from 9 o'clock at night until 6 o'clock the next morning.

Haycock said, that on the night in question he was not out after ten o'clock.

Mr. Cross, for the prisoner Archer, called Thomas Hunt, who said he went to the fire at three o'clock ; he saw Buckett and Allett tracing footsteps ; they asked him to accompany them ; he saw the mark of footsteps, but he could form no judgment of the size of the mark.

John Izard was going to Ly-mington market a little after one o'clock in the morning : he passed by the ricks, and saw the fire bursting out at the top of the clover

rick : the barley rick was not on fire at all ; it smoked very much, and smelt as if the clover had been on fire.

Cross examined.—He did not go and give an alarm, nor did he say any thing about it. This witness prevaricated considerably.

John Fairfax was with the last witness, and saw fire coming out of the rick. In his cross-examination he said he did not give any alarm. If a town had been on fire, he would have run twenty miles ; but a rick being on fire, he did not think it much mattered. (*Laughter and hisses.*)

A multitude of witnesses were called in favour of the prisoners, but, upon cross-examination, their evidence was full of prevarications.

The jury consulted for nearly an hour, and then pronounced both the prisoners guilty ; and Mr. Justice Park immediately passed sentence of death on them, without holding out the slightest hope of a reprieve. The trial occupied the court eleven hours.

PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS,

Passed in the Fifth Session of the Fifth Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.—57 GEO. III. A. D. 1817.

AN act to continue and extend the provisions of an act of the 49th of his present Majesty, for regulating the trade and commerce to and from the Cape of Good Hope, until the 5th of July 1820; and also for regulating the trade of the Island of Mauritius.

An act for raising the sum of 24 millions, by exchequer bills, for the service of the year 1817.

An act to empower his Majesty to secure and detain such persons as his Majesty shall suspect are conspiring against his person and government.

An act to extend the privileges of the trade of Malta to the port of Gibraltar.

An act for continuing to his Majesty certain duties on malt, sugar, tobacco, and snuff, in Great Britain; and on pensions, offices, and personal estates in England; and for receiving the contributions of persons receiving pensions, and holding offices; for the service of the year 1817.

An act to make perpetual certain parts of an act of the 36th of his present Majesty, for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's person and government against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts; and for the safety and preservation of the person of His

Royal Highness the Prince Regent against treasonable practices and attempts.

An act to revive and make perpetual two acts of the 37th of his present Majesty, the one in the parliament of Great Britain, and the other in the parliament of Ireland, for the better prevention and punishment of attempts to seduce persons serving in his Majesty's forces by sea and land from their duty and allegiance to his Majesty, or to incite them to mutiny or disobedience.

An act to continue, until the 5th of April, 1820, an act of the 52d of his present Majesty, to regulate the separation of damaged from sound coffee, and to permit dealers to send out any quantity of coffee not exceeding eight pounds weight without permit.

An act for vesting all estates and property occupied for the barrack service in the controller of the barrack department; and for granting certain powers to the said controller.

An act to regulate the vessels carrying passengers from the united kingdom to certain of his Majesty's colonies in North America.

An act to facilitate the progress of business in the court of
King's

King's - bench in Westminster-hall.

An act for punishing mutiny and desertion ; and for the better payment of the army and their quarters.

An act for the regulating of his Majesty's royal marine forces while on shore.

An act to indemnify such persons in the united kingdom as have omitted to qualify themselves for offices and employments, and for extending the time limited for those purposes respectively until the 25th of March, 1818 ; and to permit such persons in Great Britain as have omitted to make and file affidavits of the execution of indentures of clerks to attornies and solicitors, to make and file the same on or before the 1st day of hilary term, 1818.

An act to continue, until the 5th of July, 1818, an act of the 46th of his present Majesty, for granting an additional bounty on the exportation of the silk manufactures of Great Britain.

An act for raising the sum of eighteen millions by exchequer bills for the service of the year 1818.

An act to repeal, during the continuance of peace, so much of an act of the 9th of his present Majesty, as prohibits the exportation of pig and bar iron, and certain naval stores, unless the pre-emption thereof be offered to the commissioners of his Majesty's navy.

An act to facilitate the hearing and determining of suits in equity in his Majesty court of Exchequer at Westminster.

An act for the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies.

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An act for making further regulations in respect to the pay of the officers of the royal navy, in certain cases therein mentioned.

An act to revive and continue for two years, and from thence until the end of the then next session of Parliament, two acts made in the 47th and 50th years of his present Majesty, for the preventing improper persons from having arms in Ireland.

An act to amend two acts of the 54th and 55th of his Majesty's reign, to provide for the better execution of the laws in Ireland, by appointing superintending magistrates and additional constables in counties in certain cases.

An act to further continue, until the 25th of March, 1820, an act of the 7th of George 2nd, for the free importation of cochineal and indigo.

An act to alter and enlarge the powers of an act passed in the 54th of his present Majesty, intituled, " An act for the further improvement of the land revenue of the crown."

An act to explain and amend an act made in the 48th of his present Majesty, for repealing the duties of assessed taxes, and granting new duties in lieu thereof ; and to exempt such dwelling-houses as may be employed for the sole purpose of trade, or of lodging goods, wares, or merchandise, from the duties charged by the said act.

An act to amend and render more effectual four several acts passed in the 48th, 49th, 52nd, and 56th of his present Majesty, for enabling the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt to grant life annuities.

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An act for repealing the duties of customs on buck wheat imported into this kingdom, and for granting other duties, until the 25th of March, 1821, in lieu thereof.

An act to extend the powers of two acts, for allowing British plantation sugar and coffee, and other articles imported into Bermuda in British ships, to be exported to America in foreign vessels, and to permit articles, the produce of America, to be imported into the said island in foreign ships, to certain other articles.

An act to extend to Newfoundland the provisions of an act passed in the 52nd of his present Majesty's reign, for permitting the exportation of wares, goods, and merchandize from any of his Majesty's islands in the West Indies, to any other of the said islands, and to and from any of the British colonies on the continent of America, and the said islands and colonies.

An act to regulate the interests and periods of payment of navy, victualling, and transport bills.

An act for granting to his Majesty a sum of money to be raised by lotteries.

An act to repeal the duties of excise on stone bottles, and charge other duties in lieu thereof.

An act to reduce the allowance of spirits, tea, and tobacco, for the use of the seamen on board certain ships or vessels making short voyages.

An act to authorize the issue of exchequer bills, and the advance of money out of the consolidated fund, to a limited amount, for the carrying on of public works

and fisheries in the united kingdom, and employment of the poor in Great Britain, in manner therein mentioned.

An act for punishing mutiny and desertion; and for the better payment of the army and their quarters.

An act to regulate the trade to and from the places within the limits of the charter of the East India company, and certain possessions of his Majesty in the Mediterranean.

An act to explain and amend an act of 53d of his present Majesty, relating to tolls on carriages used in husbandry, and to remove doubts as to exemption of carriages, not wholly laden with manure, from payment of toll.

An act to continue, until the 15th of June, 1818, an act of the 52d of his present Majesty, for the more effectual preservation of the peace, by enforcing the duties of watching and warding.

An act to extend certain provisions of the acts of the 36th and 52d of his present Majesty to matters of charity and friendly societies.

An act to authorize the rewarding officers of the customs for their services in preventing illicit distillation in Scotland, under an act passed in the last session of Parliament.

An act to repeal two acts passed in the 54th and 55th of his present Majesty, relating to the office of the agent-general, and for transferring the duties of the said office to the offices of the paymaster-general and secretary at war.

An act to revive and continue, until the 25th of March, 1819, an act made in the 54th of his present

sent Majesty, for permitting the exportation of salt from the port of Nassau in the island of New Providence, the port of Exuma, and the port of Crooked island in the Bahama islands, in American ships coming in ballast.

An act for granting, for two years from the 5th of July, 1817, bounties on sugar, refined otherwise than by claying.

An act to allow corps of yeomanry or volunteer cavalry, when assembled for the suppression of riots or tumults, to be quartered and billeted, and officers on half-pay to hold certain commissions in such corps, and to exempt members in such corps from serving the office of constable.

An act for the continuation of all and every person or persons in any and every office, place, or employment, civil or military, within the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, dominion of Wales, town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, isles of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, Sarke, and Man, and also in all and every of his Majesty's foreign possessions, colonies or plantations, which he or she shall hold, possess, or exercise during the pleasure of the crown, at the time of the death or demise of his present Majesty, until removed or discharged therefrom by the succeeding King or Queen of this realm.

An act to prevent the issuing and circulating of pieces of copper or other metal, usually called tokens.

An act for settling and securing annuities on Lord Colchester, and on the next person to whom the title of Lord Colchester shall de-

scend, in consideration of his eminent services.

An act to make further provision for the adjustment of the accounts of the consolidated fund of the united kingdom, and for making good any occasional deficiency which may arise in the said fund in Great Britain or Ireland respectively; and to direct the application of monies by the commissioners for the reduction of the national debt.

An act for altering and amending the laws of excise with respect to salt and rock salt.

An act to continue an act made in the 54th of his present Majesty's reign, intituled, "An act to provide for the preserving and restoring of peace in such parts of Ireland as may at any time be disturbed by seditious persons, or by persons entering into unlawful combinations or conspiracies."

An act to regulate the celebration of marriages in Newfoundland.

An act to alter an act passed in the 11th of George 2nd, for the more effectual securing the payment of rents, and preventing frauds by tenants.

An act for the more effectual punishment of murders and man-slaughters committed in places not within his Majesty's dominions.

An act to enable the commissioners of his Majesty's woods, forests, and land revenues, to make and maintain a road from Milbank row, Westminster, to the Penitentiary.

An act to continue an act to empower his Majesty to secure and detain such persons as his Majesty shall

shall suspect are conspiring against his person and government.

An act to amend the laws in respect to forfeited recognizances in Ireland.

An act to empower his Majesty to suspend training, and to regulate the quotas of the militia.

An act to allow British goods to be exported direct from this country to the United States of America, upon the same terms as when exported to any foreign country.

An act for letting to farm the post-horse duties, and for better securing and facilitating the recovery of the said duties

An act to regulate certain offices in the court of exchequer in England.

An act to abolish the offices of the wardens, chief justices, and justices in Eyre, north and south of Trent.

An act to abolish certain offices, and to regulate certain other offices, in Ireland.

An act to regulate the offices of clerks of the signet and privy seal.

An act to abolish certain offices, and regulate others, in Scotland.

An act to enable his Majesty to recompense the services of persons holding or who have held, certain high and efficient civil offices.

An act to amend an act of the 22d of his present Majesty, for suppressing or regulating certain offices therein mentioned, so far as relates to the board of trade; and for enabling the vice-president of the board of trade to send and receive letters and packets free from the duty of postage.

An act to regulate certain offices, and abolish others, in his

Majesty's mints in England and Scotland respectively.

An act to amend the laws relating to sheriffs in Ireland.

An act to continue until the 29th of September, 1818, and to amend an act passed in Ireland, in the 36th of his present Majesty, for the improvement and extension of the fisheries on the coast of Ireland.

An act to relieve persons impugning the doctrine of the holy Trinity from certain penalties, in Ireland.

An act to amend an act of the 50th of his present Majesty's reign, for repealing the several laws relating to prisons in Ireland, and for re-enacting such of the provisions thereof as have been found usual, with amendments.

An act to continue until the end of the next session of parliament two acts made in the 54th and 56th of his present Majesty, for regulating the trade in spirits between great Britain and Ireland reciprocally.

An act to allow the exportation of woollen or bay yarn from Ireland by licence obtained there.

An act to extend several acts for allowing the importation and exportation of certain goods and merchandise to Porto Maria in the Island of Jamaica, and to the port of Bridge Town in the Island of Barbadoes.

An act to abolish the punishment of public whipping on female offenders.

An act to amend an act of the 54th year of his present Majesty, to regulate the payment of drawback on paper allowed to the universities in Scotland.

An

An act for extending the provisions of an act of the 54th of his present Majesty, for regulating the payment of army prize money ; and for authorizing the commissioners of Chelsea-hospital to suspend the pensions of such persons as shall be guilty of frauds in respect of prize money or pensions.

An act for fixing the rates of subsistence to be paid to innkeepers and others on quartering soldiers.

An act to permit the transfer of capital from certain public stocks or funds in Great Britain to certain public stocks or funds in Ireland.

An act for raising the sum of nine millions, by exchequer bills, for the service of the year 1817.

An act for raising the sum of 3,600,000*l.* British currency, by treasury bills, in Ireland, for the services of the year 1817.

An act to continue an act passed in Ireland in the 13th and 14th years of his present Majesty respecting certain annuities, so long as the said annuities shall be payable.

An act to amend an act made in the last session of parliament, for providing for the charge of certain additions to the public debt of Ireland.

An act to regulate the offices of his Majesty's exchequer in England and Ireland respectively.

An act to permit until the 14th of November, 1817, the importation of corn and other articles in any ship and from any country ; to permit such articles which may have been warehoused for exportation only to be entered for home consumption ; and for indemnifying all persons who have given directions for the importation of corn

and other articles, or the taking the same out of warehouse free of duty, and who have acted in obedience thereto.

An act to permit the importation of foreign cambricks and lawns into Ireland, on payment of the like duties as are chargeable in Great Britain.

An act to amend two acts passed in the 46th of his present majesty, and in the last session of parliament, for the making more effectual provision for the prevention of smuggling.

An act to permit fullers earth, fulling clay, and tobacco pipe clay to be carried coast-wise under certain restrictions.

An act to allow the importation of oranges and lemons from the Azores and the Madeiras into the British colonies in North America.

An act for the prevention of persons going armed by night for the destruction of game ; and for repealing an act, made in the last session of parliament, relating to rogues and vagabonds.

An act to enable justices of the peace to settle the fees to be taken by the clerks of the peace of the respective counties and other divisions of England and Wales.

An act to regulate the administration of oaths in certain cases to officers in his Majesty's land and sea forces.

An act to regulate the costs of distresses levied for payment of small rents.

An act to amend an act of the last session of parliament, for the more easy assessing of county rates.

An act to exempt the territories within the limits of the East India company's

company's charter from certain of the navigation laws.

An act for suspending, until the 1st of August 1820. the duties on coals and culm removed coast-wise within the principality of Wales, and granting other duties in lieu thereof.

An act for ratifying articles of agreement entered into by the Right Honorable Henry Hall, Viscount Gage, and the Commissioners of his Majesty's woods, forests, and land revenues; and for the better management and improvement of the land revenues of the crown.

An act for ratifying the purchase of the impropriate rectory of Saint Mary-le-bone in the county of Middlesex.

An act to consolidate and amend the laws relating to spiritual persons holding of farms; and for enforcing the residence of spiritual persons on their benefices; and for the support and maintenance of stipendiary curates in England.

An act to renew the powers of exonerating small livings and charitable institutions from the land tax, and for making further provision for the redemption of the land tax.

An act to continue an act, intituled an act farther to extend and render more effectual certain provisions of an act passed in the 12th of George 1st. intituled 'An act to prevent frivolous and vexatious arrests;' and of an act passed in the 5th of George 2nd, to explain, amend, and render more effectual the said former act: and of two acts, passed in the 19th and 43d of his present Majesty, extending the provisions of the said former acts."

An act to defray the charge of the pay, cloathing, and contingent expenses of the disembodied militia in Great Britain, and of the miners of Cornwall and Devon; and for granting allowances in certain cases to subaltern officers, adjutants, quarter-masters, surgeons mates, and serjeant-majors of militia, until the 25th day of March 1818.

An act for defraying until the 25th of June 1818, the charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia of Ireland; and for making allowances in certain cases to subaltern officers of the said militia during peace.

An act to reduce the number of serjeants, corporals, and drummers in the militia of Ireland, whilst disembodied.

An act to encourage the establishment of banks for savings in Ireland.

An act to provide for the establishment of asylums for the lunatic poor in Ireland.

An act to provide for the more deliberate investigation of presentments to be made by grand juries for roads and public works in Ireland, and for accounting for money raised by such presentments.

An act for the regulation of levying tolls at fairs, markets, and ports in Ireland.

An act to abolish the subsidy alnage of the old and new draperies, and of all woollen manufactures in Ireland: and to authorize the payment out of the consolidated fund of an annual sum to John Lord de Blaquiere, during the continuance of his interest in the office of alnager.

An act to make further regulations

tions for the better collecting and securing the duties upon spirits distilled in Ireland.

An act to suspend, until the 10th of October 1819, a part of the duties on sweets or made wines.

An act to amend an act of the 25th of his present Majesty, for better regulating the office of treasurer of his Majesty's navy, as far as respects the mode of applications for certain services in the victualing department.

An act to prevent the further circulation of dollars and tokens, issued by the governor and company of the Bank of England, for the convenience of the public.

An act to continue until the 1st August 1818, two acts of his present Majesty, allowing the bringing of coals, culm, and cinders to London and Westminster.

An act to extend the provisions of an act of the 12th of George 1st, and an act of the 22nd George 2nd, against payment of labourers in goods or by truck, and to secure their payment in the lawful money of this realm, to labourers employed in the manufacture of articles made of steel, or of steel and iron combined, and of plated articles, or of other articles of cutlery.

An act for limiting the time now allowed by law for production of the certificate of due delivery of goods removed from one warehousing port in Great Britain to another for the purpose of exportation; for altering the hours for shipping goods in the port of London; and to empower officers of the customs and excise to permit the removal of goods from one bonding warehouse to another in the same port.

An act to regulate the issuing of extents in aid.

An act for authorising the executors or administrators of deceased licensed navy agents to receive prize money, bounty money, and other allowances of money upon orders given to such deceased agents.

An act to exempt British and Irish stone bottles, made and used for the sole purpose of containing liquid blacking, from the duties of excise on stone bottles granted by an act of this session of parliament.

An act to authorize the court of directors of the East India company to make extraordinary allowances, in certain cases, to the owners of certain ships in the service of the said company.

An act for regulating payments to the treasurer of the navy under the head of old stores and imprests.

An act to extend the provisions of an act of the 12th of George I., and an act of the 22d of George II., against payment of labourers in goods or by truck, and to secure their payment in the lawful money of this realm, to labourers employed in the collieries, or in the working and getting of coal, in the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; and for extending the provisions of the said acts to Scotland and Ireland.

An act for imposing a duty of excise on the excess of spirits made from corn in England above the proportion of nineteen gallons of spirits for every one hundred gallons of wash; and for further securing the duties on wort or wash made for distilling spirits in England;

England; and for authorizing the shipment of rum for stores in casks containing sixty gallons.

An act to amend an act made in the present session of parliament, for authorizing the issue of exchequer bills, and the advance of money for carrying on public works and fisheries, and employment of the poor.

An act to authorize the driving and keeping a hackney coach or chariot under the same licence.

An act to repeal an act, passed in the 54th of his present Majesty, for the punishment of persons destroying stocking or lace frames, and articles in such frames; and to make until the 1st of August, 1820, other provisions in lieu thereof.

An act to settle the share of prize money, droits of admiralty, and bounty money payable to Greenwich hospital, and for securing to the said hospital all unclaimed shares of vessels found derelict, and of seizures for breach of revenue, colonial, navigation, and slave abolition laws.

An act for extending the exemptions from the duties granted by certain acts of the 43rd and 45th of his present Majesty's reign, in dwelling houses in Scotland; and for altering the manner of claiming and ascertaining the exemptions to be granted.

An act for vesting in his Majesty a certain part of the open commons and waste lands within the manor or royalty of Rialton and Retraighe, alias Reterth, in the parish of Saint Columb Major, in the county of Cornwall.

An act to encourage the establishment of banks for savings in England.

An act for the better regulation of polls, and for making other provisions touching the election of members to serve in parliament for places in Ireland.

An act for applying certain monies therein mentioned for the service of the year 1817, and for further appropriating the supplies granted in this session of parliament.

PATENTS.

From June 20, 1816, to May 22, 1817.

John Burnett, for his convolving iron axle-tree for the reduction of friction and animal labour.

John Hawkins Barlow, for certain improvements on tea-urns, tea-pots, tea-boards, &c.

John Barlow, for a new cooking apparatus.

John Towers, for a tincture for the cure of coughs, asthmas, &c.

Henry Warburton, for a method of distilling certain animal, vegetable, and mineral substances, and manufacturing certain of the products.

John Hague, for improvements in the method of expelling the molasses or syrup from sugars.

Robert Salmon, for further improvements in the construction of machines for making hay.

John Poole, for brass and copper plating, or plating iron or steel with brass or copper, and working the same into plates, bars, &c.

John Chalklen, for improvements on valve water closets.

William Henry, for improvements in the manufacture of sulphate of magnesia.

John Dayman, for a method of coating iron, steel, and other metals, or mixtures of metals.

John Welch, for an improvement in making rollers used in spinning wool, cotton, silk, flax, tow, or any other fibrous substance,

Samuel Nock, for an improvement in the pans of locks of guns and fire-arms.

Robert Tripp, for a hussar garter with elastic springs and fastenings, and also elastic springs for pantaloons, &c.

James Neville, for new and improved methods of generating power by means of steam or other fluids for driving or working all kinds of machinery, &c.

Edward Biggs, for improvements on the machinery used in making or manufacturing of pans and stails of various kinds.

William Moulton, for improvements on his former patent for an improved method of acting upon machinery.

Jean Samuel Pauly, for a machine for making of nails, screws, and the working all metallic substances.

Robert Salmon, for improved instruments for complaints in the urethra and bladder.

John Barton, for certain improvements in pistols.

John Kirkman, for a method of applying an octave stop to piano-fortes.

Louis Fauche Borel, for a method of making boots and shoes without sewing, so as entirely to keep out the wet.

Lewis Granholm, for a method of making articles of hemp or flax,

or

or of hemp and flax mixed, more durable than any such articles now manufactured.

William Barley, and *Robert Hopwood Furness*, for a method of obtaining saccharine matter from wheat, barley, rye, oats, bear, or big.

Joseph Gregson, for a new method of constructing chimneys, and of supplying fires with fuel.

Benjamin Smythe, for a new method of propelling vessels, boats, barges, and rafts of all kinds; and also other machinery, as mill-wheels, and other revolving powers.

William Day, for various improvements in or on trunks, and on the application of machinery, by means of which they will contract or expand at pleasure.

William Snowden, for an apparatus to be applied to carriages to prevent them from being overturned.

Simon Hosking, for a steam-engine upon a new construction for drawing water from mines, for working different kinds of machinery, and for other purposes.

George Washington Dickinson, for a method for preventing leakage from vessels containing liquids, and for preventing the admission of moisture into vessels or packages intended to be kept dry within.

Joseph Heathcoat, for improvements upon machinery for making that kind of lace known by the names of bobbin net, or Buckingham lace net.

William Piercy, for a method of making thimbles.

John Day, for improvements in the construction of piano-fortes

and other keyed musical instruments.

Robert Stirling, for diminishing the consumption of fuel; and in particular an engine capable of being applied to the moving machinery, on a principle quite new.

Robert Raines Baines, for a perpetual log, or sea ambulator.

William Russell, for an improvement upon cocks and vents for general purposes.

John Barker, for an improvement in the means of acting upon machinery.

Robert Ford, for a medicine for the cure of coughs, colds, asthmas, and consumptions.

Walter Hall, for a method of making soft lead out of hard or slag lead.

James Kewley, for improvements in and on thermometers.

Richard Wright, for improvements in the construction and propelling ships and other vessels.

William Dean, for machinery for waxing calico, or any other cloth previous to the process of glazing.

Samuel Brown, and *Philip Thomas*, manufacturers of iron cables, for a chain manufactured in a peculiar way by a new process, and certain apparatus in performing the same.

William Manton, for an improvement in the application of springs to wheel carriages.

John Raffield, for certain improvements on, and additions to, his former patent for an apparatus to be attached to fire-stoves, &c.

Daniel Wilson, for improvements in the process of boiling and refining sugar.

Robert Dickinson, for a method of preparing or paving streets or roads

roads for horses and carriages so as to render them more durable.

Joseph de Cavaillon, for improvements in the preparing, clarifying, and refining of sugar, and other vegetable, animal, and mineral substances.

William Wall, for a horizontal escapement for watches.

George Montague Higginson, for improvements in locks.

Isaac Robert Mott, for a new instrument called the Sostimente Piano-forte.

William Bundy, for machinery for breaking and preparing flax and hemp.

James Atkinson, for improvements on lustres, chandeliers, lanterns, lamps, &c. and in the manner of conveying the gas to the same.

William Clarke, for a contrivance to be called a safeguard to locks, by which they may defy the attempts of plunderers.

Robert Hardy, for improvements in the manufacturing of cast-iron bushes, or pipe boxes, for all kinds of carriage wheels.

Richard Litherland, for improvements in the escapement of watches.

Richard Holden, for machines for producing rotatory and pendulous motions in a new manner.

Daniel Wilson, for gas light apparatus, processes, and philosophical instruments.

William Henry Osborn, for a principle of producing cylinders of various descriptions.

Urbanus Sartoris, for improvements in the construction and use of fire-arms.

Ludwig Granholm, for means of pressing vegetable and animal products.

William Raybould, for an im-

provement applicable to fire-stoves, grates, and ranges.

William Panter, for an improvement to facilitate rotatory motion, and lessen or improve friction in wheel carriages and machinery of various descriptions.

John Winter, for a method of joining and combining horn and tortoise-shell together.

David Wheeler, for a method of drying and preparing malt.

Edward Nicholas, for a plough to cover wheat and other grain with mould when sown.

Antonio Joaquin Friere Marroce, for a method of manufacturing an improved machine for calculating the longitude at sea.

William Collins, for an improvement in the composition of a metal for the manufacturing into sheets or plates, and the application of it for the preservation of ships; and for the improvement of chain-pumps.

Henry Wilms, for an artificial leg, arm, or hand, on an improved construction.

John Gerard Colbert, for improvements in the method of making screws of iron, brass, steel, or other metals, for the use of all kinds of wood-work.

John Walker, for an improved method of separating molasses or treacle out of muscovado, brown, or new sugar.

Richard Williams, the elder, for improvements in the manufacturing of cards for the dressing of woollen cloths.

Archibald Thomson, for a machine for cutting corks.

William Owen, for a portable table, or box mangle for smoothing linen, &c.

William Bound, and *William Stone*,

Stone, for a method of applying certain apparatus for converting the fuel for heating the retorts of gas-lights into coak or charcoal.

Robert Salmon, for an apparatus for the more useful, pleasant, and economic use of candles.

Benjamin Cook, for an improved method of making rollers and cylinders, both solid and hollow.

Leger Didot, for certain improvements upon the machines already in use for making wove and laid paper in continued length.

from December 10, 1816, to December 10, 1817.

Christened in the 97 parishes within the walls 1044—Buried 1085.
 Christened in the 17 parishes without the walls 5429—Buried 3939.
 Christened in the 23 out-parishes in Middlesex and Surry 12716—Buried 10108.
 Christened in the 10 parishes in the City and Liberties of Westminster 4940—Buried 4836.

DISEASES AND CASUALTIES.

Abortive and stillborn.....	700	Epilepsy	5	Pleurisy.....	22	Burnt.....	41
Abscess	98	Evil	6	Purples	1	Choaked.....	2
Aged	1875	Fevers of all kinds.....	1299	Quinsy.....	2	Drowned.....	119
Ague.....	2	Fistula.....	3	Rash	2	Excessive Drinking.....	12
Apoplexy and suddenly ...	462	Flux.....	9	Rheumatism	11	Executed*.....	10
Asthma	743	French Pox.....	86	Scrophula.....	5	Found Dead	29
Bedridden	5	Gout.....	54	Scurvy	6	Fractured.....	4
Bile	6	Gravel, Stone, Strangury ..	24	Small Pox.....	1051	Frighted.....	9
Bleeding.....	45	Grief.....	4	Sore Throat.....	5	Killed by falls and several } other accidents	65
Bursten and Rupture	43	Headmoldshot, Horseshoe- head, & Water in the head }	419	Sores and Ulcers.....	11	Killed themselves.....	34
Cancer.....	99	Imposthume.....	2	Spasm.....	25	Murdered	3
Chicken Pox	1	Inflammation.....	1002	St. Anthony's Fire.....	7	Poisoned	6
Childbed	252	Jandice	75	Stoppage in the Stomach ..	24	Scalded	4
Colds	14	Jaw Locked.....	2	St. Vitus's Dance.....	1	Shot	1
Cholick, Gripes, &c.	7	Livergrown	76	Stricture	1	Starved	8
Consumption	4200	Lumbago	1	Swelling	1	Strangled.....	1
Convulsions	3242	Lunatick	244	Teeth	449	Suffocated	11
Cough and Hooping Cough.	645	Measles.....	725	Thrush	111		
Cow Pox.....	1	Miscariage	6	Tumor	3		
Craup.....	1	Mortification	304	Water in the Chest.....	68		
Croup	109	Palpitation of the heart....	4	Worms.....	12		
Diabetes.....	3	Palsy.....	162	Broken Limbs	6		
Dropsy	718			Bruised	2		
						Total	367

Christened, Males 12,624—Females 11,505—In all 24,129. | Buried, Males 10,033—Females 9,935—In all 19,968.

Whereof have died,

Under two years of age 5698	Twenty and thirty....	1364	Sixty and seventy	1614	A hundred.....	7
Between two and five. 2019	Thirty and forty.....	1795	Seventy and eighty....	1224	A hundred and one.....	1
Five and ten	Forty and fifty.....	1983	Eighty and ninety....	683	A hundred and three ...	1
Ten and twenty.....	Fifty and sixty.....	1788	Ninety and a hundred.	156	A hundred and five.....	2

Decreased in the burials this year 348.

* There have been executed in London and the County of Surry, 26; of which number 10 only have been reported to be buried within the bills of mortality.

PRICE OF STOCKS FOR EACH MONTH IN 1817.—Lowest and Highest.

1816.	Bank Stock.	3 p. ct. red.	3 p. ct. cons.	4 p. ct. cons.	5 p. ct. Navy.	Long. Ann.	India Stock.	India Bonds.	Exche- quer bills. 3d.	S. Sea Stock.	Irish 5 p. ct.	Ombium.
January...	{ 220 224 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{8}$ 64	62 $\frac{3}{8}$ 63 $\frac{1}{4}$	79 80 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{7}{8}$ 95 $\frac{1}{8}$	16 $\frac{1}{4}$ 16 $\frac{3}{4}$	188 $\frac{3}{4}$ 193 $\frac{3}{4}$	15 pr. 27 pr.	6 pr. 17 pr.	67 $\frac{1}{4}$ 67 $\frac{3}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	
February...	{ 226 240	64 $\frac{3}{4}$ 68 $\frac{1}{4}$	63 $\frac{7}{8}$ 67	81 $\frac{1}{2}$ 85 $\frac{3}{8}$	96 98 $\frac{5}{8}$	17 18	194 $\frac{3}{4}$ 199 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 pr. 29 pr.	10 pr. 18 pr.	65 $\frac{3}{8}$ 67 $\frac{1}{4}$	95 $\frac{3}{8}$ 97 $\frac{3}{4}$	
March.....	{ 246 247 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 69 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{7}{8}$ 70 $\frac{5}{8}$	86 $\frac{3}{4}$ 87 $\frac{7}{8}$	99 $\frac{1}{4}$ 100	18 $\frac{1}{8}$ 19	201 $\frac{1}{2}$ 203	33 pr. 42 pr.	9 pr. 17 pr.	68 $\frac{1}{4}$ 70 $\frac{3}{8}$	99	
April.....	{ 251 257	71 72 $\frac{7}{8}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$ 73 $\frac{5}{8}$	88 $\frac{1}{4}$ 88 $\frac{1}{4}$	100 $\frac{3}{4}$ 103	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 19	206 209	43 pr. 76 pr.	12 pr. 23 pr.	72	99 $\frac{3}{8}$ 100	
May... ..	{ 252 $\frac{1}{4}$ 256	71 $\frac{3}{8}$ 72 $\frac{1}{4}$	72 $\frac{1}{8}$ 73 $\frac{1}{4}$	91 $\frac{1}{4}$ 88 $\frac{1}{4}$	103 104 $\frac{5}{8}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18 $\frac{5}{8}$	210 $\frac{1}{2}$ 211	72 pr. 86 pr.	14 pr. 18 pr.	71 $\frac{1}{2}$ 72 $\frac{1}{4}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$ 101	
June.....	{ 250 273	72 $\frac{1}{4}$ 75 $\frac{3}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{8}$	89 $\frac{5}{8}$ 90	105 105 $\frac{1}{4}$	18 $\frac{5}{8}$ 19 $\frac{5}{8}$	214 218	82 pr. 94 pr.	10 pr. 13 pr.		102 $\frac{1}{2}$ 104 $\frac{3}{4}$	
July.....	{ 274 294	75 $\frac{5}{8}$ 83 $\frac{5}{8}$	75 $\frac{7}{8}$ 83 $\frac{1}{8}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$ 94	103 $\frac{3}{8}$ 108	19 $\frac{5}{8}$ 23	231 248	92 pr. 116 pr.	10 pr. 34 pr.	80 $\frac{7}{8}$ 82 $\frac{1}{4}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ 105 $\frac{1}{2}$	
August....	{ 281 284	79 $\frac{1}{2}$ 81 $\frac{3}{4}$	79 $\frac{1}{8}$ 81 $\frac{1}{4}$	101 $\frac{3}{4}$ 96 $\frac{1}{4}$	103 $\frac{7}{8}$ 106	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{1}{4}$	226 231 $\frac{3}{4}$	111 pr. 124 pr.	25 pr. 35 pr.	79 $\frac{1}{4}$ 80 $\frac{3}{4}$	105 105 $\frac{1}{2}$	
September.	{ 280 284	80 $\frac{1}{4}$ 80 $\frac{3}{4}$	79 $\frac{1}{8}$ 81 $\frac{1}{4}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ 98 $\frac{1}{4}$	105 $\frac{3}{4}$ 106 $\frac{7}{8}$	20 $\frac{7}{8}$ 21	229 $\frac{1}{2}$ 240	40 pr. 107 pr.	18 pr. 28 pr.	79 $\frac{1}{8}$ 79 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ 107	
October....	{ 280 285 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{3}{4}$ 82 $\frac{3}{8}$	81 83 $\frac{3}{4}$	87 $\frac{1}{4}$ 99	106 $\frac{7}{8}$ 108 $\frac{1}{4}$	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ 21 $\frac{1}{8}$	235 245 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 pr. 118 pr.	16 pr. 24 pr.	79 $\frac{1}{8}$ 81 $\frac{7}{8}$	105 $\frac{7}{8}$ 106 $\frac{1}{2}$	
November..	{ 288 291	82 83	82 $\frac{1}{4}$ 83 $\frac{7}{8}$	98 $\frac{7}{8}$ 99 $\frac{5}{8}$	108 $\frac{1}{8}$ 109 $\frac{1}{8}$	21 21 $\frac{1}{8}$	246 $\frac{1}{2}$ 250	98 pr. 102 pr.	19 pr. 21 pr.		106 $\frac{5}{8}$ 107 $\frac{3}{4}$	
December..	{ 288 $\frac{3}{4}$ 294 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{7}{8}$ 83 $\frac{1}{8}$	83 $\frac{1}{8}$ 83 $\frac{5}{8}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ 99 $\frac{5}{8}$	108 $\frac{7}{8}$ 109 $\frac{1}{8}$	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ 21 $\frac{1}{4}$	247 248	96 pr. 102 pr.	15 pr. 20 pr.		107 $\frac{3}{4}$ 107 $\frac{1}{2}$	

TABLE OF THE NUMBER OF BANKRUPTCIES IN ENGLAND,

From Dec. 20, 1816, to Dec. 20, 1817, inclusive.

January.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
153	209	150	165	193	150	116	93	61	70	120	95

Total Bankruptcies.. 1575. Decreased from the last year...454.

AVERAGE PRICES OF CORN

PER QUARTER

In England and Wales, 1817.

	Wheat.		Rye.		Barley.		Oats.		Beans.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Jan.	103	1	60	6	51	8	31	9	63	0
Feb.	102	0	62	7	49	8	29	5	56	10
Mar.	102	5	60	5	49	8	30	11	54	5
Apr.	102	7	59	9	50	1	33	11	51	0
May	105	0	62	5	51	9	33	6	51	8
June	111	6	65	8	55	4	39	3	54	2
July	100	0	61	5	49	5	37	5	50	10
Aug.	86	2	54	11	45	0	34	6	48	6
Sept.	76	2	45	11	44	2	30	10	46	4
Oct.	78	9	46	4	42	3	27	11	46	3
Nov.	80	5	46	9	43	8	27	8	48	2
Dec.	84	6	49	9	45	5	27	10	59	1

Average of the Year.

94 4½ | 56 5¼ | 49 2 | 31 1½ | 54 5¼

A Statement of the Quantity of Porter brewed in London by the Twelve first Houses, from the 5th of July, 1816, to the 5th of July, 1817:—

	Barrels.		Barrels.
Barclay, Perkins, & Co.	281,484	Calvert and Co.	98,301
Hanbury and Co.	168,757	Goodwyn and Co.	60,307
Reid and Co.	157,131	Elliott and Co.	55,163
Whitbread and Co.	151,888	Taylor and Co.	42,920
Henry Meux and Co.	124,823	Golden-lane brewery	25,756
Combe, Delafield, & Co.	110,776	Hollingsworth	7,029

The following is the Quantity of Ale brewed by the Seven principal Ale-Brewers in London, from the 5th July, 1816, to 5th July, 1817.

	Bar.		Bar.
Stretton and Co.	25,051	Hale	7,763
Wyatt and Co.	18,119	Hall	7,048
Charrington	16,886	Whitmore	4,025
Goding	12,352		

LIST OF THE PRINCE REGENT'S MINISTERS,

As it stood at the opening of the Session.

CABINET MINISTERS.

Earl of Harrowby	Lord President of the Council.
Lord Eldon	Lord High Chancellor.
Earl of Westmoreland.....	Lord Privy Seal.
Earl of Liverpool.....	{ First Lord of the Treasury (Prime Minister)
Right Hon. Nicholas Vansittart. . .	
Lord Viscount Melville.....	{ Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer.
Earl Mulgrave.....	
Lord Viscount Sidmouth.....	{ First Lord of the Admiralty.
Lord Viscount Castlereagh	
Earl Bathurst.....	{ Master General of the Ordnance.
Right Hon. George Canning	
Right Hon. C. Bragge Bathurst..	{ Secretary of State for the Home Department.
Right Hon. W. W. Pole..	
	{ Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
	{ Secretary of State for the Department of War and the Colonies.
	{ President of the Board of Controul for the affairs of India.
	{ Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
	Master of the Mint.

NOT OF THE CABINET.

Right Hon. George Rose.....	Treasurer of the Navy.
	President of the Board of Trade.
Right Hon. F. J. Robinson.....	{ Vice-President of the Board of Trade.
Right Hon. Charles Long	
Earl of Chichester ..	{ Paymaster-General of the Forces.
Marquis of Salisbury.	
Viscount Palmerston.....	{ Joint Postmaster-General.
Right Hon. Charles Arbuthnot ..	
S. R. Lushington	{ Secretary at War.
Sir T. Plomer.....	
Sir Samuel Shepherd.....	{ Secretaries of the Treasury.
Sir Robert Gifford	
	Master of the Rolls.
	Attorney-General.
	Solicitor General.

PERSONS IN THE MINISTRY IN IRELAND.

Earl Talbot	Lord Lieutenant.
Lord Manners.....	Lord High Chancellor
Right Hon. Robert Peel	Chief Secretary.
Right Hon. N. Vansittart	Chancellor of the Exchequer.

METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER, 1817.

(Kept at Tottenham, by L. Howard.)

	BAROMETER.			THERMOMETER.			RAIN, INCHES.
	HIGHEST.	LOWEST.	MEAN.	HIGHEST.	LOWEST.	MEAN.	
Dec. 12 .. Jan. 9.	30.58	28.53	29.649	52	14	36.18	5.61
Jan. 10 .. Feb. 7.	30.58	28.79	29.846	54	19	40.03	1.38
Feb. 8 .. Mar. 9.	30.29	28.78	29.592	55	28	42.06	2.68
Mar. 10 .. Apr. 7.	30.51	29.72	30.070	60	17	41.5	0.25
Apr. 8 .. May 7.	30.37	29.67	30.028	64	25	43.85	0.28
May 8 .. June 5.	29.99	29.16	29.533	72	33	50.7	3.18
June 6 .. July 5.	30.23	29.17	29.751	86	34	62.83	2.81
July 6 .. Aug. 4.	30.00	29.06	29.743	76	41	59.32	1.95
Aug. 5 .. Sept. 2.	30.05	28.90	29.631	75	34	57.65	2.13
Sept. 3 .. Oct. 2.	30.10	29.16	29.842	76	24	55.76	0.48
Oct. 3 .. Nov. 1.	30.34	29.14	29.881	57	27	43.27	1.34
Nov. 2 .. Dec. 1.	30.45	29.26	29.878	59	30	47.11	2.00
The Year.			29.78			48.26	24.09

STATE PAPERS.

Treaty between his Majesty the King of France and Navarre and his Majesty the King of Portugal, of Brazil, and Algarva, concluded at Paris, August 28, 1817.

ART. 1. His Most Faithful Majesty, animated with the desire of executing the 107th Article of the Act of the Congress of Vienna, binds himself to deliver up to his Most Christian Majesty, in the space of three months or sooner, if possible, French Guiana, as far as the river Oyapor, of which the mouth is situated between the 4th and 5th degrees of northern latitude, and as far as the 322d degree of longitude to the east of the Isle de Fer (Iron Island) by the parallel of 2 deg. 24 min. of northern latitude.

2. Commissioners on either side are to be immediately nominated and despatched to fix definitively the limits of French and Portuguese Guiana, conformably to the precise sense of the 8th Article of the Treaty of Utrecht, and to the stipulations of the Act of the Congress of Vienna: the abovementioned Commissioners must terminate their labours at the expiration of a year at latest, from the date of their arrival at Guiana. If at the expiration of this term of a year the abovementioned respective Commissioners cannot agree,

the two High Contracting Parties will then proceed to other arrangements, under the mediation of Great Britain, and always conformably to the precise sense of the 8th Article of the Treaty of Utrecht, concluded under the guaranty of that power.

3. The fortresses, magazines, and all the military stores shall be surrendered to his Most Christian Majesty, according to the inventory mentioned in the 5th Article of the Capitulation of French Guiana in 1809.

4. In consequence of the abovementioned articles, the necessary orders for effecting the transmission of French Guiana (which orders are at present in the possession of the undersigned Plenipotentiary of his Most Faithful Majesty) shall, immediately after the signature of the present treaty, be communicated to the French government, with an official letter of the same Plenipotentiary, to which a copy of the present treaty shall be annexed; and which will inform the Portuguese Authorities that they are to deliver up in the delay of three days, the said colony to the Commissioners charged by his Most Catholic Majesty to take possession of them as soon as they shall have presented their instructions to that effect.

5. The French government engages

gages to transport to the maritime towns of Para and Pernambuco (in the vessels which shall have been employed for the conveyance of the French troops to Guiana) the Portuguese garrison of this colony, as well as the civil functionaries, with all their baggage.

SEPARATE ARTICLE.

All the points upon which any difficulties may arise, resulting from the restitution of French Guiana, such as the payment of debts, the recovery of the revenues, and the reciprocal exchange of slaves, will form the object of a particular treaty between the French and Portuguese government.

Translation of the Bull against Bible Societies, issued from Rome, June 29, 1816, by Pope Pius VII. to the Archbishop of Gnezn, Primate of Poland.

PIUS P. P. VII.

Venerable Brother,
Health and apostolic benediction.

In our last letter to you we promised, very soon, to return an answer to yours; in which you have appealed to this Holy See, in the name also of the other bishops of Poland, respecting what are called Bible Societies, and have earnestly inquired of us what you ought to do in this affair. We long since, indeed, wished to comply with your request; but an incredible variety of accumulating concerns have so pressed upon us on every side, that, till this day, we could not yield to your solicitation.

We have been truly shocked at this most crafty device, by which

the very foundations of religion are undermined; and having, because of the great importance of the subject, convened for consultation our venerable brethren, the cardinals of the holy Roman Church, we have, with the utmost care and attention, deliberated upon the measures proper to be adopted by our Pontifical authority, in order to remedy and abolish this pestilence as far as possible. In the mean time, we heartily congratulate you, venerable brother; and we commend you again and again in the Lord, as it is fit we should, upon the singular zeal you have displayed under circumstances so hazardous to christianity, in having denounced to the Apostolic See, this defilement of the faith, most imminently dangerous to souls. And although we perceive that it is not at all necessary to excite him to activity who is making haste, since of your own accord you have already shown an ardent desire to detect and oppose the impious machinations of these Innovators; yet, in conformity with our office, we again and again exhort you, that whatever you can achieve by power, provide for by counsel, or effect by authority, you will daily execute with the utmost earnestness, placing yourself as a wall for the house of Israel.

For this end we issue the present Brief, viz. that we may convey to you a signal testimony of our approbation of your excellent conduct, and also may endeavour therein still more and more to excite your pastoral solicitude and vigilance. For the general good imperiously requires us to combine all our means and energies to frustrate the plans, which are prepared

pared by its enemies for the destruction of our most holy religion: whence it becomes an episcopal duty, that you first of all expose the wickedness of this nefarious scheme, as you already are doing so admirably, to the view of the faithful, and openly publish the same, according to the rules prescribed by the church, with all that erudition and wisdom in which you excel; namely, "That bibles printed by hereticks are numbered among other prohibited books by the Rules of the Index (No. II. and III.); for it is evident from experience, that the holy Scriptures, when circulated in the vulgar tongue, have, through the temerity of men, produced more harm than benefit;" (Rule IV.) And this is the more to be dreaded in times so depraved, when our holy religion is assailed from every quarter with great cunning and effort, and the most grievous wounds are inflicted on the church. It is, therefore, necessary to adhere to the salutary decree of the Congregation of the Index (June 13th, 1757), that no versions of the Bible in the vulgar tongue be permitted, except such as are approved by the Apostolic See, or published with annotations extracted from the writings of the Holy Fathers of the Church.

We confidently hope that, even in these turbulent circumstances, the Poles will afford the clearest proofs of their attachment to the religion of their ancestors; and this especially by your care, as well as that of the other prelates of this kingdom, whom, on account of the stand they are so wonderfully making for the faith committed to them, we congratu-

late in the Lord, trusting that they all will very abundantly justify the opinion which we have entertained of them.

It is moreover necessary that you should transmit to us, as soon as possible, the Bible which Jacob Wuiek published in the Polish language with a commentary, as well as a copy of the edition of it lately put forth without those annotations, taken from the writings of the holy fathers of our church, or other learned Catholics, with your opinion upon it; that thus, from collating them together, it may be ascertained, after mature investigation, what errors may lie insidiously concealed therein, and that we may pronounce our judgment on this affair for the preservation of the true faith.

Proceed, therefore, venerable brother, to pursue the truly pious course upon which you have entered; viz. diligently to fight the battles of the Lord in soundness of doctrine, and warn the people intrusted to your care, that they fall not into the snares which are prepared for them to their everlasting ruin. The church waits for this from you, as well as from the other bishops, whom our rescript equally concerns; and we most anxiously expect it, that the deep sorrow we feel on account of this new species of tares which an enemy is sowing so abundantly, may, by this cheering hope, be somewhat alleviated: and, we heartily invoke upon you and your fellow bishops, for the good of the Lord's flock, ever increasing gifts by our Apostolic benediction, which we impart to yourself and to them.

PIUS PP. VII.

PUBLIC INCOME OF GREAT BRITAIN,

For the Year ending Fifth January, 1817.

An Account of the ORDINARY REVENUES and EXTRAORDINARY RESOURCES constituting the PUBLIC INCOME of GREAT BRITAIN.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	GROSS RECEIPT: Total Sum to be ac- counted for.		Drawbacks, Discounts, Charges of Management, &c. paid out of the Gross Revenue.		NET PRODUCE applicable to National Objects, and to Payments into the Exchequer.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
ORDINARY REVENUES.						
Permanent and Annual Taxes.						
Customs.....	11,154,879	3 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,985,098	12 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	8,169,780	11 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Excise.....	21,671,610	14 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	2,655,980	5 2	19,015,630	9 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Stamps.....	6,526,164	18 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	341,876	7 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	6,184,288	10 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Land and Assessed Taxes.....	7,562,411	9 7	304,504	12 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	7,257,906	17 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Post Office.....	2,207,788	4 10	547,933	8 6	1,659,854	16 4
Pensions and } 1s. in the £.....	23,029	18 5	453	11 7	22,576	6 10
Salaries.....	14,323	14 5	663	10 4	13,660	4 1
Hackney Coaches.....	31,011	14 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,515	7 10	26,496	6 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hawkers and Pedlars.....	25,038	15 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3,002	5 3	22,036	10 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total Permanent and Annual Duties.....	49,216,258	13 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6,846,028	1	42,370,230	12 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Small Branches of the Hereditary Revenue.						
Alienation Fines.....	7,661	2 1	1,147	8 0	6,513	14 1
Post Fines.....	7,181	13 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	11 0	7,082	2 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Seizures.....	14,584	0 5	—	—	14,584	0 5
Compositions and Proffers.....	608	9 4	—	—	608	9 4
Crown Lands.....	138,759	10 2	2,688	17 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	136,070	12 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

HEADS OF REVENUE.		GROSS RECEIPT:		Drawbacks, Discounts, Charges of Management, &c. paid out of the Gross Revenue.		NET PRODUCE applicable to National Objects, and to Payments into the Exchequer.	
		Total Sum to be ac- counted for.					
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
EXTRAORDINARY RESOURCES.							
WAR TAXES.							
Customs.....		1,246,409	7 9½	238,599	2 0¼	1,007,810	5 9¼
Excise.....		6,035,302	11 9½	1,453,664	15 1¾	4,581,637	16 7¾
Property Tax.....		12,276,870	18 3¾	237,750	7 11¼	12,039,120	10 4½
Arrears of Income Duty, &c.....		36	18 0	0	18 0	36	0 0
Lottery, Net Profit (of which one-third part is for the service of Ireland).....		252,166	13 4	17,486	0 0	234,680	13 4
Monies paid on Account of the Interest of Loans raised for the Service of Ireland....		4,558,558	8 1	—	—	4,558,558	8 1
On Account of Balance due by Ireland on joint Expenditure of the United King- dom.....		1,184,009	8 5	—	—	1,184,009	8 5
On Account of the Commissioners, appointed by Act 35 Geo. 3. cap. 127, and 37 Geo. 3, cap. 27, for issuing Exchequer Bills for Grenada, &c.....		5,091	17 1	—	—	5,091	17 1
Unclaimed Dividends paid into the Exchequer by the Chief Cashier of the Bank of England.....		303,506	18 6	—	—	303,506	18 6
Surplus Fees of Regulated Public Offices.....		28,619	10 8¾	—	—	28,619	10 8¾
Imprest Monies repaid by sundry Public Accountants, and other Monies paid to the Public.....		101,259	8 9½	—	—	101,259	8 9½
Total, independent of Loans.....		75,376,885	9 9	8,797,465	0 8¾	66,579,420	9 0¼
Loans paid into the Exchequer, (including the amount of those raised for the Service of Ireland).....		8,939,802	16 3	—	—	8,939,802	16 3
GRAND TOTAL.....		84,316,688	6 0	8,797,465	0 8¾	75,519,223	5 3¼

CONSOLIDATED FUND AND PERMANENT TAXES.—INCOME AND CHARGE, 1817.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.	CHARGE.	Actual Payments out of the Consolidated Fund, in the Year ended 5th Jan. 1817.		Balance in 1817, Charge upon the Consolidated Fund, as it stood on 5th Jan. 1817.	
					£	s. d.	£.	s. d.
CUSTOMS. Consolidated, after reserving the sum of £.105,000 per annum, to be carried to Duties pro Anno 1809, per Act 49 Geo. 3. £2,626,751 17 8 $\frac{3}{4}$				Total Charge for Debt created prior to 1807.....	21,613,206	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	21,567,765	18 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Isle of Man Duties.. 6,180 2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$				CIVIL LIST				
Quarantine Duty .. 17,716 19 11				For the Support of His Majesty's Household, per Act 17 Geo. 3....	898,000	0 0	898,000	0 0
Canal & Dock Duty 28,241 16 4				Ditto.....44.....	60,000	0 0	60,000	0 0
				Ditto.....52.....	70,000	0 0	70,000	0 0
	2,678,890	16	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	COURTS OF JUSTICE.				
EXISE. Consolidated after reserving the several sums carried per Acts 52, 53, and 55 Geo. 3, to the Duties pro Annis 1812, 1813, and 1815. £14,510,252 15 7 $\frac{1}{2}$				Judges of England and Wales, in augmentation of their Salaries.....	13,050	0 0	13,050	0 0
British Spirits, Anno 1806, Schedule A 292,000 0 0				Deficiencies of Judges Salaries in England.....	12,792	16 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uncertain.	
				Additional Salaries to the Welch Judges John Baldwin, Esq. Receiver of the Seven Police Offices.....	3,200	0 0	3,200	0 0
STAMPS. Consolidated, after reserving as directed per Acts 48, 50, & 55 Geo 3 £3,990,429 5 4				Patrick Colquhoun, Esq Ditto, Thames Police Office.....	20,747	5 6	Uncertain.	
Licences for selling Lottery Tickets 4,289 11 10				VICE ADMIRALTY JUDGES:—Alexander Croke, Esq. at Nova Scotia.....	6,807	14 5		
INCID NTS	3,994,718	17	2	Henry John Hinchliffe, Esq. Jamaica William Territt, Esq. Bermudas....	1,544	18 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	To Cease.	
Surplus Duty on Sugar, Malt, and Tobacco, annually granted	6,347,422	18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		2,000	0 0	2,000	0 0
					1,949	8 9	To Cease.	
	1,594,112	9	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	Sheriffs of England and Wales.....	4,000	0 0	4,000	0 0

Annual Malt, &c. Anno 1813, 1814, and 1815					Clerk of the Hanaper	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Pensions, Offices, and personal Estates, Anno 1813, 1814, and 1815					Master of His Majesty's Mint in England	553,428	0	0	4,000	0	0
Arrears of 4s. Aid, Land Taxes, Anno 1803 to 1816					Ditto	58,516	7	11½	13,800	0	0
Income Duty, Anno 1801					Scotland	1,069,417	13	8	1,200	0	0
Money reserved on account of Nominations appointed by the Lords of the Treasury, in Tontine, Anno 1789 ..					F. Morrison, Esq. Deficiency Mint Fees ..	36	0	0	236	10	3
Monies paid by divers Persons					SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES.						
Amount of Property Tax. Anno 1815, remaining in the Exchequer, and not otherwise appropriated, carried to Consolidated Fund per Act 27 Geo. 3, cap. 13, c. 52					Speaker of the House of Commons, to complete his Salary of £6,000 per annum	23,622	19	3¾	2,036	4	0
Total Income of Duties applicable to paying the Charge prior to 1807, and the Incidental Charges as they stood on the 5th January 1817					Edward Roberts, Esq. an annual sum, formerly paid to the Auditor	1,881,594	5	4½	650	0	0
					George Pepler, Esq. Inspector of Tontine Certificates	374,006	6	0¾	750	0	0
					Chief Cashier of the Bank, for Fees at sundry Public Offices				1,123	5	0
					For the Encouragement of the growth of Hemp and Flax in Scotland	33,553,925	4	2½	2,956	13	8
					Messenger of the Great Seal, per 53 Geo. 3, cap. 89				113	19	5¾
					COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.						
					William Mackworth Praed, Esq. Chairman	603,072	4	9½	1,500	0	0
					Sir Charles W. Rouse Boughton, Bart. Francis Percival Eliot Esq.	596,927	15	2½	1,200	0	0
					Richard Dawkins, Esq.	222,685	19	6	1,200	0	0
					John Sargent, Esq.	1,422,685	19	6	1,200	0	0
					John Anstey, Esq.				1,200	0	0
					Total						

INCOME.	CHARGE.	Actual Payment out of the Consolidated Fund, in the Year ended 5th Jan. 1817.	Future Annual Charge upon the Consolidated Fund, as it stood on 5th Jan. 1817.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.
DUTIES pro Anno 1808.	John Wishaw, Esq.	1,200 0 0	1,200 0 0
Surplus Consolidated Duties on Assessed Taxes	Salaries and Contingencies in the Office of said Commissioners.....	34,040 4 8	Uncertain.
Surplus Consolidated Stamps	COMMISSIONERS OF WEST-INDIA ACCOUNTS.		
Interest, Management, &c. on Loan for Ireland.	John Halkett, Esq. Chairman.....	1,500 0 0	1,500 0 0
Total.....	James Chapman, Esq.....	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0
DUTIES pro Anno 1809.	John Wilson, Esq.....	1,000 0 0	1,000 0 0
Brought from Consolidated Customs ..	Salaries and Contingencies in the Office of said Commissioners.....	6,717 17 1	Uncertain.
Ditto War Taxes, to pay charge of Loan	MISCELLANEOUS and Pensions (See Appendix C. No. V. Public Expenditure).....	550,624 15 2½	449,156 8 2
War Duties of Customs, made permanent Anno 1816.....	Total of incidental Charges upon the Consolidated Fund, as they stood on the 5th of January, 1817.	1,724,741 12 10½	1,530,327 1 3¼
Interest, Management, &c. on Loan for Ireland.....	RECAPITULATION.		
Total.....	Total Charge for debt incurred prior to 1807.....	21,613,206 1 7¾	21,567,765 18 11¼
DUTIES pro Anno 1810.			
Surplus Consolidated Stamps, per Act 48 Geo. 3			
Interest, Management, &c. on Loan for Ireland			
Total.....			
DUTIES pro Anno 1811.			
Brought from War Taxes.....			

	£	s.	d.
British Spirits, pro Anno 1811.....	516,640	0	0
Foreign ditto.....	87,640	0	0
Total.....	839,357	15	7½
DUTIES pro Anno 1812.			
Taken from Consolidated Excise.....	615,834	0	0
Additional Duty on the Postage of Letters.....	205,306	1	1
Male Servants, Carriages, Horses for Riding, Ditto and Mules, Dcgs, Horse Dealers' Licences, Game Certificates.	443,924	9	6
Interest, Management, &c. on Loan for Ireland.....	308,736	6	0
Total.....	1,573,800	16	7
DUTIES pro Anno 1813.			
Permanent Duty on Customs.....	516,885	18	8
Interest, Management, &c on Loan for Ireland.....	437,269	10	7
Total.....	954,155	9	3
DUTIES pro Anno 1814.			
Brought from Money reserved in the Exchequer, being part of Annuity to the Prince of Wales.....	22,000	0	0

INCOME.	CHARGE.	Actual Payments out of the Consolidated Fund, in the Year ended 5th January 1817.	Future Annual Charge up in the Consolidated Fund, as it stood on 5th Jan 1817.
Interest, Management, &c. on Loan for Ireland.....		£. s. d. 328,888 0 7	
Total.....		350,888 0 7	
DUTIES pro Anno 1815.			
Surplus Consolidated Stamps.....		500,458 0 11¼	
Taken from Consolidated } Tobacco...		131,318 0 0	
Excise..... } Licences...		121,002 0 0	
Interest, Management, &c. on Loan for Ireland.....		840,852 13 9	
Total.....		1,593,630 14 8¼	
TOTAL INCOME of the CONSOLIDATED FUND, in the Year ended 5th January 1817.....		43,642,116 6 4½	

An Account of the Net Produce of all the PERMANENT TAXES of GREAT BRITAIN; taken for two Years ending respectively 5th January 1816 and 5th January 1817.

	In the Year ended 5th Jan. 1816.			Ditto, 5th Jan. 1817.		
	£	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
CONSOLIDATED CUSTOMS	3,857,940	16	4½	2,731,751	17	8½
..... Ditto..... Ditto... (Isle of Man)	9,501	9	5	6,180	2	11½
..... Ditto..... Ditto... (Quarantine)	18,149	2	8½	17,716	19	11
..... Ditto..... Ditto... (Canal and Dock Duty).....	30,841	9	7	28,241	16	4
..... Ditto..... Ditto..... (Permanent Duty, 1813).....	716,497	19	4½	516,885	18	8
..... Ditto..... Ditto..... (late War Duty 1809).....	-	-	-	1,080,077	0	2½
..... Ditto..... Ditto 1810 and 1811	-	-	-	47,782	3	11½
..... Ditto..... EXCISE.....	16,663,879	0	0	15,378,406	15	7½
BRITISH SPIRITS..... 1806.....	531,700	0	0	292,300	0	0
.. Ditto..... Ditto..... 1811).....	526,840	10	9½	516,640	0	0
.. FOREIGN Ditto.....	87,025	19	10½	87,640	0	0
STAMPS, 1808.....	3,338,219	3	10	-	-	-
... Ditto.. 1815	2,527,196	4	7	5,965,434	17	0
LOTTERY LICENCES.....	3,961	6	0	4,289	11	10
LAND TAXES.....	1,045,536	1	6½	1,069,417	13	8
INCIDENTS.						
Letter Money	1,548,000	0	0	1,426,000	0	0
Hawkers and Pedlars	17,350	0	0	25,860	0	0
Seizures	9,445	7	2	14,584	0	5
Proffers	626	15	4	608	6	0
Compositions	-	-	-	0	3	4
Fines and Forfeitures.....	228	15	3	100	0	0
Rent of Alum Mines.....	864	0	0	864	0	0
.. Ditto.. a Light House.....	-	-	-	26	13	4
Alienation Duty	6,470	8	8	3,049	18	8
Hackney Coaches and Chairs. 1711.....	9,720	0	0	10,692	0	0
..... Ditto..... 1784.....	13,130	0	0	15,473	0	0
Windows	2	15	0	-	-	-
Houses.....	0	16	6	-	-	-
Arrears of Carts.....	3	12	0	-	-	-
Servants.....	5	5	0	-	-	-
Arrears of 10l. per Cent. 1793.....	5	11	3	-	-	-
Carriages	21	0	0	-	-	-
Husbandry Horses.....	-	-	-	3	18	3½
Windows.....	196	12	11	7	8	0
Houses.....	27	7	10	0	10	6
Horses and Mules.....	146	0	0	1	19	7
Horses	429	0	0	26	5	5
Horse Dealers Licences.....	-	-	-	1	1	0
Servants.....	63	1	9½	4	0	0
Hair Powder	18	17	9½	-	-	-
Armorial Bearings.....	33	6	2½	-	-	-
Carriages.....	221	13	6	-	-	-
Dogs	118	18	0	2	8	0
10l. per Cent. 1806.....	37	16	1½	-	-	-

(continued over leaf)

INCIDENTS—(<i>Continued.</i>)		In the Year ended 5th Jan. 1816.			Ditto 5th Jan. 1817.		
		£.	s.	d.	£	s.	a.
Consolidated Assessed Taxes. . 1808.		6,213,659	2	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	5,782,875	15	10
6d. per lib. on Pensions. 1812.		49	17	10	-	-	-
1s. Ditto on Salaries. —		417	5	10	-	-	-
6d. Ditto on Pensions. 1813.		800	0	0	1,292	5	0
1s. Ditto on Salaries. —		1,427	4	2	190	13	0
6d. Ditto on Pensions. 1814.		5,100	0	0	694	5	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
1s. Ditto on Salaries. —		14,000	0	0	1,879	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
6d. Ditto on Pensions. 1815.		2,550	0	0	6,180	0	0
1s. Ditto on Salaries. —		1,500	0	0	14,635	0	0
6d. Ditto on Pensions. 1816.		-	-	-	2,600	0	0
1s. Ditto on Salaries. —		-	-	-	4,000	0	0
Two-wheeled Carriages. 1802.		-	-	-	400	0	0
Surplus Duties annually granted, after discharging 3,000,000 <i>l.</i> Exchequer Bills charged thereon	Sugar and Malt. Additional Ditto. Annual Ditto. Tobacco. Land Tax on Offices, &c.	282,356	19	6	550,528	6	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
		873,368	0	0	889,844	3	2
		552,419	0	0	553,428	0	0
		91,924	0	0	153,740	0	0
		34,460	18	6	58,516	7	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
		39,039,488	12	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	37,260,874	12	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Duties annually granted to discharge three millions Exchequer Bills charged thereon.	Sugar and Malt Additional Ditto. Annual Ditto. Tobacco. Land Tax on Offices, &c.	2,470,362	2	9	2,393,202	12	2
		238,119	0	0	220,604	0	0
		-	-	-	786	0	0
		357,831	0	0	312,734	0	0
		16	18	4	4,016	18	4
		42,105,817	14	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	40,192,218	3	0 $\frac{3}{4}$

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
I. For Interest, &c. on the Permanent Debt of Great Britain, unredeemed; including Annuities for Lives and Terms of Years (App. A. 1. 2.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	45,044,889	9	6
II. Interest on Exchequer Bills (B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,196,177	19	3
III. Civil List (C)	-	-	-	1,028,000	0	0			
IV. { Other Charges } on the { Courts of Justice Consolidated { Mint Fund: { Allowances, &c. to the Royal Family Salaries and Allowances Miscellaneous	-	-	-	70,092	3	7			
	-	-	-	15,236	10	3			
	-	-	-	427,009	4	5 $\frac{1}{4}$			
	-	-	-	60,588	3	1 $\frac{1}{4}$			
	-	-	-	123,815	10	9			
V. Civil Government of Scotland, (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,724,741	12	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	-	-	-	-	-	-	128,514	15	1
VI. The other Payments in Anticipation of the Exchequer Receipts; (E.) viz. Bounties for Fisheries, Manufactures, Corn, &c. Pensions on the Hereditary Revenue Militia, and Deserters Warrants	-	-	-	247,132	14	6			
	-	-	-	27,700	0	0			
	-	-	-	83,749	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	-	-	-				358,582	5	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
VII. The Navy, (F.)—viz. Wages and General Services Vicuallling Department Transport ditto	-	-	-	6,695,647	4	10			
	-	-	-	1,128,061	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$			
	-	-	-	1,692,617	0	9			
	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,516,325	6	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
VIII. The Ordnance, (G.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,661,711	12	1
IX. The Army, (H.)—viz. Ordinary Services Extraordinary Services, including Remittances and Advances to other Countries	8,607,497	8	7						
	6,171,225	0	8						
	-	-	-	14,778,722	9	3			
Deduct the Amount of Remittances and Advances to other Countries, included in Appendix I.	-	-	-	1,731,139	12	11 $\frac{1}{4}$			
	-	-	-				13,047,582	16	3 $\frac{3}{4}$

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE—(Continued.)

X. Loans, &c. to other Countries, (L.)—viz,							
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.
Ireland.....	-	-	-	2,581,148	6	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Russia.....	1,096,355	17	7 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Sicily.....	117,748	6	8				
Sweden.....	506 098	13	7				
Naples.....	263	15	7 $\frac{1}{2}$				
Spain.....	1,121	10	8 $\frac{1}{4}$				
Holland.....	23	18	9				
Minor Powers under Engagements with the Duke of Wellington.....	9,527	10	0				
				1,731,139	12	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	4,312,287 19 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
XI. Miscellaneous Services, (K.)—viz							
At Home.....	-	-	-	3,661,300	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Abroad.....	-	-	-	247,861	10	6	
							3,909,161 19 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct Sums, which, although included in this Account, form no part of the Expenditure of Great Britain; viz.							
Loan, &c. for Ireland.....	-	-	-	2,581,148	6	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	82,899,975 16 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sinking Fund on Loan to the East India Company.....	-	-	-	132,998	10	4	
							2,714,146 16 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
							*80,185,828 19 7

* This includes the Sum of 495,711*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* for Interest, Management, and Sinking Fund, on Imperial Loans; and 57,070*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* for ditto Portuguese Loan.

PUBLIC FUNDED DEBT.

An Account of the Progress made in the Redemption of the PUBLIC FUNDED DEBT OF GREAT BRITAIN, at 1st February, 1817.

FUNDS.	CAPITALS.			Long Annuities at the Bank of England.			Transferred to, or Redeem- ed by the Commissioners, from 1st August, 1786, to 1st Feb. 1817.			TOTAL SUMS Paid.			Aver. Price of Stocks.
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Consolidated £.3 per Cent. Annuities	448,297,588	4	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	-	-	86,464,495	0	0	53,933,207	5	3	62 $\frac{3}{8}$
Reduced	303,138,022	0	1	-	-	-	185,673,777	0	0	114,746,273	0	1	61 $\frac{1}{8}$
Old South Sea Annuities	24,065,084	13	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	-	-	10,600,000	0	0	7,243,834	8	9	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
New.. Ditto	1,919,600	0	0	-	-	-	1,039,000	0	0	728,860	10	0	70 $\frac{1}{8}$
£.3 per Cents. Anno 1751	76,777,744	2	2	-	-	-	7,796,400	0	0	6,586,934	8	9	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Consolidated £.4 per Cent. Annuities	132,820,057	9	7	-	-	-	145,500	0	0	130,113	7	6	89 $\frac{3}{8}$
Ditto £.5 Ditto	1,063,798	0	8	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	
£.5 per Cent. Annuities, Annis 1797 and 1802	1,000,000	0	0	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	
£.3 per Cent. Ditto	14,686,800	0	0	-	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ditto Bank Annuities													
				1,229,852	12	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	291,719,172	0	0	183,369,223	0	4	
Capitals transferred to the Commissioners, the Dividends on which have not been claimed for 10 years and upwards, and which are subject to the Claims of the Parties entitled thereto	-	-	-	-	-	-	539,258	9	11				
Transferred to Commissioners, on account of Land Tax Re- deemed, at 1st of February, 1817	1,003,768,694	10	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,229,852	12	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	292,258,430	9	11				
	25,290,994	3	4	—	—	—							
... Ditto... for purchase of Life Annuities, per Act 48 Geo. 3...	978,477,700	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—							
	3,449,955	0	0	4,420	0	0							
Redeemed by the Commissioners	975,027,745	7	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,225,432	12	0 $\frac{1}{2}$							
	292,258,430	9	11	471	6	8							
Debt Unredeemed at 1st February, 1817....	682,769,314	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,224,961	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$							

ANNUITIES

Fallen in since the 22d of June 1802, or that will fall in hereafter.

SUMS

Annually applicable to the Reduction of the NATIONAL DEBT.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Annual Charge, per 26 Geo. 3.	1,000,000	0	0	Exchequer Annuities, 2d and 3d Anne, expired 5th April 1803.	23,369	13	4
Do. 42 do.	200,000	0	0	Do. do 5th Jan. 1805.	7,030	6	8
Do. per 55, being £.1 per cent. on Outstanding and Exchequer Bills, unprovided for at 5th Jan. 1816.	260,000	0	0	Do. 4 Anne do. 5th April.	23,254	11	6
Annu. for 99 and 96 Years, expired 1792.	54,880	14	6	Do. 5 do. 5th April 1806.	7,776	10	0
Do. 10 Years do. 1787.	25,000	0	0	Do. 6 do. do. 1807.	4,710	10	0
Life Annuities Unclaimed for 3 Years, at 5th Jan. 1817. ..	28,838	7	0	Do. 6 do. 5th July.	10,180	0	0
Do. of which the Nominees shall have died prior to 5th July 1802.	21,431	6	1	Bank Short Annuities do. 5th Jan. 1808. ..	418,333	0	11
Dividend on £.271,907,881. at 3 per cent.	8,157,236	8	7	Do. Long do. will expire 5th Jan. 1860.	1,929,852	12	0½
Do. on £.7,796,400, at 4 per cent.	311,856	0	0	By an Act 42d Geo. 3, cap. 71, such Annuities as fall in after the passing of that Act, are not to be placed to the Account of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt.			
Do. on £.145,300. 5 per cent.	7,275	0	0				
Annuity of 1 per cent. on capitals created from 1st Feb. 1793 to 1812, both inclusive.	5,601,053	9	10				
Dividend on £.3449,955. 3 per cents. transferred to purchase Life Annuities.	103,498	13	0				
Dividend on £.4,420. Long Annuities, for Do.	4,420	0	0				
The Proportion of Sinking Fund on Loan raised and Bills funded, anno 1815, to be borne by Consolidated Fund	543,494	6	11½				
	16,319,034	5	11½				
	626,255	10	5				

Annual Appropriation on £.12,000,000. part of £14,290,000. Loan 1807, 47 Geo. 3, cap. 55.

Annual Interest on 11,869,391. Capital, purchased by the Commissioners at 3 per cent. on account of ditto...	356,081	14	7
Interest on £.212,258. 9s. 11d. Capital unclaimed, on account of Great Britain.....	17,301,371	10	11½
Long Annuities unclaimed, Ditto	6,920	19	2½
Interest on £.327,000. Reduced Annuities, purchased with Unclaimed Dividends	471	6	8
	9,810	0	0
Chargeable on Sinking Fund :	17,318,573	16	10
Life Annuities	£.225,254	13	0
Loans and Bills, funded from 1813 to 1815 inclusive.....	7,632,969	14	9½
	7,858,224	17	9¼
Deduct for Sinking Fund for said Loans and Bills	2,213,024	18	10½
Actual Sinking Fund of Great Britain.....	11,673,374	7	11¼

An ACCOUNT of the PUBLIC FUNDED DEBT of GREAT BRITAIN, as the same stood on the 1st of February, 1817.

	Capitals, at £.3 per Cent per Annum.				Consolidated Annuities at £.4 per Cent.	Capitals, at £.5 per Cent.	
	Bank of England, and Annuities, 1746.	South Sea Old and New Annuities, 1791.	Consolidated Annuities.	Reduced Annuities.		Consolidated Annuities.	Annuities 1797 and 1802.
Total Debt of Great Brit. £	15,686,800 0	21,037,684 13 11½	354,763,461 2 4½	132,527,696 18 10	68,981,344 2 2	132,678,057 9 7	1,063,798 0 8
..... Ireland, payable in Great Britain	-	-	42,087,625 0 0	52,768,750 0 0	5,954,375 0 0	2,222,000 0 0	—
..... Loans to the Emperor of Germany, payable in Ditto	-	-	7,502,633 6 8	—	—	—	—
..... Ditto to Prince Regent of Portugal, payable in Do.	-	-	-	895,522 7 9	—	—	—
In the Names of the Commis. for the Reduct. of the Debt.	15,686,800 0	21,037,684 13 11½	404,353,719 9 0½	186,191,969 6 7	74,935,719 2 2	134,900,057 9 7	1,063,798 0 8
Transferred to the Commis. by purchasers of L. Ann. pursuant to Act 48 Geo. 3, c. 142.	461 11	6,692,000 0 0	18,370,161 7 11	36,852,915 10 2	16,313 17 1	17-708 11 7	5,294 15 2
	15,686,338 9	14,345,684 13 11½	385,983,558 1 1½	149,339,053 16 5	74,919,405 5 1	134,882,348 18 0	1,058,503 5 6
	-	-	2,275,876 0 0	1,174,079 0 0	—	—	—
Total, &c... £	15,686,338 9	14,345,684, 13 11½	383,707,682 1 1½	148,164,974 16 5	74,919,405 5 1	134,882,348 18 0	1,058,503 5 6

<i>(Repeated Column.)</i>		TOTAL CAPITALS.	ANNUAL INTEREST.	Annuities for Lives, or for Terms of Years.	Charges of Management.	Annual or other Sums payable to the Commis- sioners by Sundry Acts of Parliament.	TOTAL of ANNUAL EXPENSES.
Total Debt of Great Britain.....£.		726,738,842 7 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	25,166,815 16 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,303,250 14 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	245,350 14 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	10,545,190 6 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	37,260,607 11 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
..... Ireland, payable in Great Britain.....		103,032,750 0 0	3,194,966 5 0	129,583 6 8	28,826 9 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,039,584 19 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	4,392,961 1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
..... Loans to the Emperor of Germany, payable in Ditto.....		7,502,633 6 8	225,079 0 0	230,000 0 0	3,852 10 6	36,693 0 0	495,624 10 6
..... Ditto to Prince Regent of Portugal, payable in Ditto.....		895,522 7 9	26,865 13 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	- - -	159 7 10	30,000 0 0	57,025 1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
In the Names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the Debt.....		838,169,748 1 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	28,613,726 14 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,662,834 1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	278,189 2 3	11,651,468 6 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	42,206,218 4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Transferred to the Commissioners by pur- chases of Life Annuities, pursuant to Act 48 Geo. 3, cap. 142		61,954,855 12 11	1,859,268 17 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	509 14 4	- - -	1,859,778 11 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
TOTAL CHARGE for DEBT, payable in Great Britain		776,214,892 9 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	26,754,457 17 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,662,324 6 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	278,189 2 3	13,511,246 17 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	42,206,218 4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Add Annuities payable at the Exchequer, Unclaimed for three years, at 5th Jan. 1817.....		3,449,955 0 0	103,498 13 0	4,420 0 0	- - -	107,918 13 0	—
Deduct Life Annuities payable at the Bank of England.....		772,764,937 9 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	26,650,959 4 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,657,904 6 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	278,189 2 3	13,619,165 10 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	42,206,218 4 5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Amount applicable to the Reduction of the Debt payable in Great Britain.....		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	28,838 7 0	-
		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	13,648,003 17 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	-
		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	225,254 13 0	-
		- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	13,422,749 4 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	-

EXCHEQUER, 18th of March, 1817. WM. ROSE HAWORTH.

UNFUNDED DEBT.

An Account of the UNFUNDED DEBT and DEMANDS OUTSTANDING on the 5th Day of January, 1817.

	Amount Outstanding.			
	£.	s.	d.	£. s. d.
EXCHEQUER:				
Exchequer Bills provided for.....	11,650,300	0	0	
Do. unprovided for.....	33,000,000	0	0	44,650,300 0 0
TREASURY:				
Miscellaneous Services.....	1,487,743	7	7½	
Warrants for Army Services.....	476,888	7	4½	
Treasury Bills.....	536,171	0	0	2,500,802 14 11¾
Army.....	-	-	-	731,651 12 8
Barracks.....	-	-	-	36,961 19 1
Ordnance.....	-	-	-	391,641 3 3
Navy.....	-	-	-	1,735,731 3 1
				50,047,088 13 0¾

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTS.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to consider of the Poor Laws, and to report their Observations thereupon from time to time to the House, have, pursuant to the Order of the House, considered the same accordingly, and agreed to the following Report.

YOUR Committee have forborne to avail themselves of the permission to report their observations from time to time to the House, from the persuasion that they could not do justice to so extensive and intricate a subject, by presenting it in detached parts before they had the means of taking a deliberate view of the whole; and not seeing it probable that they could recommend any such alteration of the existing laws as would afford immediate relief in those cases of severe and urgent pressure, which can scarcely be deemed to have arisen out of the ordinary operation of this system, they could not feel themselves justified in offering any suggestions hastily to the House on questions of acknowledged difficulty, enhanced in a high degree by the circumstances of the times, and on which they cannot but recollect, that the remedial efforts of the most able and

enlightened men have practically failed.

In bringing under the view of the House the whole of this system of laws, they feel it unnecessary to refer minutely to the statutes which passed antecedent to the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It may be sufficient to state, that they were generally directed to the relief of the impotent poor, by the contributions of the church and the alms of the charitable, and to the suppression of vagrancy and idleness; for while permission to solicit support from private benevolence was given to those who were disabled by age or infirmity, it became probably extremely difficult to repress the same practice in others, who "as long as they might live by begging, did refuse to labour, giving themselves to idleness and vice." Enactments the most harsh were therefore provided against "strong beggars, persons whole and mighty in body;" and the relentless rigour of these laws, which was consummated in the first year of Edward VI. visited the offence of vagrancy with the barbarous penalties of slavery, mutilations, and death. And although these severities were somewhat relaxed, even before the expiration of that short reign, yet they did

did not wholly give way to a milder system till the beginning of the last century.

The impotent poor, on the other hand, were permitted to beg within certain districts, and no means of exhortation were spared to excite the people “to be liberal, and bountifully to extend their good and charitable alms towards the comfort and relief of the poor, impotent, decrepit, indigent, and needy people.” Subsequent statutes in the reign of Edw. VI. were directed to the same object, till at length by the 5th Eliz. c. 3, upon the exhortation of the priest, bishop, and justices in sessions, having been directed in vain to those who were unwilling to contribute, the justices, after repeated admonition, were empowered with the churchwardens to assess such persons according to their discretion for a weekly contribution. Thus gradually was established a general and compulsory provision for the maintenance of the impotent poor; it was modified and extended by various successive enactments, and at length matured and consolidated by the statute of the 43d of the same reign, which continues to this day the fundamental and operative law on this important subject.

This statute enacts, that “the churchwardens and overseers” shall take order from time to time (with the consent of two or more justices) for setting to work the children of all such whose parents shall not be thought able to keep and maintain their children; and also for setting to work all such persons, married or unmarried, having no means to maintain them, and use no ordinary or daily

trade of life to get their living by; and also to raise by taxation, &c. “a convenient stock of flax, &c. to set the poor on work;” and also competent sums of money for and towards the necessary relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such other among them, being poor and not able to work.”

This new and important principle of compulsory provision for the impotent, and for setting to work the able, originated, without doubt, in motives of the purest humanity, and was directed to the equitable purpose of preventing this burthen falling exclusively upon the charitable. But such a compulsory contribution for the indigent, from the funds originally accumulated from the labour and industry of others, could not fail in process of time, with the increase of population which it was calculated to foster, to produce the unfortunate effect of abating those exertions on the part of the labouring classes, on which, according to the nature of things, the happiness and welfare of mankind has been made to rest. By diminishing this natural impulse by which men are instigated to industry and good conduct, by superseding the necessity of providing in the season of health and vigour for the wants of sickness and old age, and by making poverty and misery the conditions on which relief is to be obtained, your Committee cannot but fear, from a reference to the increased numbers of the poor, and increased and increasing amount of the sums raised for their relief, that this system is perpetually encouraging and increasing the amount of misery it was designed to alleviate,

viate, creating at the same time an unlimited demand on funds which it cannot augment; and as every system of relief founded on compulsory enactments must be divested of the character of benevolence, so it is without its beneficial effects; as it proceeds from no impulse of charity, it creates no feelings of gratitude, and not unfrequently engenders dispositions and habits calculated to separate rather than unite the interests of the higher and lower orders of the community; even the obligations of natural affection are no longer left to their own impulse, but the mutual support of the nearest relations has been actually enjoined by a positive law, which the authority of magistrates is continually required to enforce. The progress of these evils, which are inherent in the system itself, appears to have been favoured by the circumstances of modern times, by an extension of the law in practice, and by some deviations from its most important provisions. How much of the complaints which have been referred to your Committee may be attributable to one cause or the other, it is perhaps not easy to ascertain. The result, however, appears to have been highly prejudicial to the moral habits, and consequent happiness of a great body of the people, who have been reduced to the degradation of a dependence upon parochial support; while the rest of the community, including the most industrious class, has been oppressed by a weight of contribution taken from those very means which would otherwise have been applied more beneficially to the supply of employment. And, as the funds

which each person can expend in labour are limited, in proportion as the poor-rate diminishes those funds, in the same proportion will the wages of labour be reduced, to the immediate and direct prejudice of the labouring classes; the system thus producing the very necessity which it is created to relieve. For whether the expenditure of individuals be applied directly to labour, or to the purchase of conveniences or superfluities, it is in each case employed immediately or ultimately in the maintenance of labour.

This system, it is also to be remarked, is peculiar to Great Britain; and even in Scotland, where a law similar in principle was about the same period enacted, the intelligent persons to whom the administration of it has been entrusted, appear by a valuable report (for which your Committee are lately indebted to the prompt exertions of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland) to have possessed so much foresight and judgment as to its effects, that they have very generally and successfully endeavoured to avoid having recourse to its provisions for a compulsory assessment. Their funds, therefore, continue to be derived, except in comparatively few places, from charity, and are dispensed with that sound discrimination, which in the ordinary transactions of life belongs to real benevolence; and the committee of the General Assembly state, “That it is clear to them, that in almost all the country parishes which have hitherto come under their notice, where a regular assessment has been established, the wants of the poor and the extent of

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of the assessment have gradually and progressively increased from their commencement; and that it does appear to be a matter of very serious interest to the community at large, to prevent as far as possible this practice from being generally adopted—to limit the assessments as much as they can be limited, where the circumstances of particular parishes render them unavoidable, and whenever it is practicable to abandon them.”

Under this impression, respecting the effect of a system, which having been in operation upwards of two centuries, has become interwoven with the habits and very existence of a large class of the community, your Committee have anxiously endeavoured to devise such means as may be calculated, by their gradual operation, to revive, with habits of industry and frugality, those moral feelings in the people which are intimately connected with their self-support and independence; and further, to correct any such defects in the mode in which the law has been executed, as may have tended to create or aggravate the evils to which they have referred. With these views, they have felt it their duty to consider maturely every plan which has either suggested itself to your Committee, or which has at various times been proposed by the most eminent persons, who have devoted their attention and efforts to the amelioration of this part of our law; and such suggestions as may seem worthy, either of the adoption or consideration of the House, your Committee will notice as they arise, on the consi-

deration of the subject in detail, as it relates to the assessment and the purposes for which it is levied.

Before your Committee proceed to these considerations, they must lament that it has yet been found impossible to reduce the returns made under the 55th of the King to the shape in which they should be presented to Parliament; even the abstract of the expenditure could only very recently be completed, from the tardiness with which the statute has been executed in no less than 854 parishes. From the want of the details of these returns, they have been deprived of a large mass of the most valuable, and for some purposes indispensable information; they have been compelled to make new and otherwise unnecessary inquiries, and they are still without the means of presenting to the House any view of the comparative increase or diminution of this expenditure in different parts of the kingdom.

What might have been the amount of the assessments for the poor during the 17th or 18th centuries, the Committee have no means of ascertaining; for although the preamble of 13th and 14th Ch. II. states “the necessity, number, and continual increase of the poor, to be very great and exceeding burthensome;” and in the year 1699, King William thus expressed himself in a speech from the throne, “the increase of the poor is become a burthen to the kingdom; and their loose and idle life does in some measure contribute to that depravation of manners which is complained of, I fear with too much

much reason ; whether the ground of this evil be from defects in the laws already made, or in the execution of them, deserves your consideration ;” and though complaints appear continually to have been since made of the increasing numbers of the poor, yet it was not till the present reign, in the year 1776, that authentic accounts of this expenditure were required under the authority of the legislature. From the returns made under acts passed in that and subsequent years, it appears that in 1776, the whole sum raised was 1,720,316*l.* of which there was expended on the poor, 1,556,804*l.* ; on the average of the years 1783, 1784, and 1785, the sum raised was 2,167,749*l.* expended on the poor, 2,004,238*l.* ; in the year 1803 the sum raised was 5,348,205*l.* expended on the poor, 4,267,965*l.* ; in 1815, 7,068,999*l.* expended on the poor, 5,072,028*l.* The excess above the sum applied to the poor, was expended in church rates, county rates, highway and militia ; and it appears from the evidence before your Committee, that the amount of the sums assessed is largely increased since those last returns ; a part of which increase cannot fail to have arisen from the peculiar pressure and difficulty of the times, aggravated by the high prices incident to the calamity of a deficient harvest. But independent of the pressure of any temporary or accidental circumstances, and making every allowance for an increased population, the rise in the price of provisions and other necessaries of life, and a misapplication of part of these funds, it is apparent that both the number of paupers, and

the amount of money levied by assessment, are progressively increasing, while the situation of the poor appears not to have been in a corresponding degree improved ; and the Committee is of opinion, that whilst the existing poor laws, and the system under which they are administered remain unchanged, there does not exist any power of arresting the progress of this increase, till it shall no longer be found possible to augment the sums raised by assessment.

For if the means could be found to distribute the burthen more equally, by rendering the interest of money and the profit of stock liable to the assessment, these funds being also in themselves limited, must finally be absorbed by the increasing and indefinite amount of the demand. It having, however, been strongly pressed upon the House and the Committee, in petitions from various quarters, to devise some better means than now exist, of bringing the income derived from personal property in aid of this assessment, which is now nearly confined in practice to the revenue arising from land and houses, and bears undoubtedly with unequal pressure on the occupier of land, the Committee have given their most attentive consideration to this subject. They find that the only enactment which regulates the description of persons and property subject to the rate, is the original clause in the 43d Eliz. which directs the churchwardens and overseers “ to raise weekly or otherwise ‘ by taxation of every inhabitant, parson, vicar and others, and of every occupier of land,

land, houses, tithes impropriate, proportions of tithes, coalmines, or saleable underwoods in the said parish, in such competent sum and sums of money as they shall think fit,' a convenient stock of flax, &c. to set the poor on work; and also competent sums for and towards the relief of the lame, impotent, &c. to be gathered out of the same parish, according to the ability of the same parish." Without troubling the House with the numerous, and in some instances contradictory decisions, of the courts of law upon this short enactment, it will be sufficient to state, that the intention of the statute to tax the inhabitants of the parish for their local and visible property, as well as the occupiers of land, has been recognized as indisputable; and if in practice the burthen has been imposed almost exclusively on land and houses, it has not arisen from the taxation of personal property being either illegal or unjust, but from the insurmountable difficulty of ascertaining legally the amount, or even existence of a species of property, to which in truth the terms *local* and *visible* seem scarcely to apply. The intention of the legislature therefore to bring into equal contribution all species of income, has failed in this instance, as it has done subsequently under the original land-tax act, which was designed in its first establishment as a tax on all income, and from the same cause, namely, the difficulty of ascertaining with any reasonable precision, the amount of the contribution, without the exercise of powers which the exigency of the state in time of war

has alone induced the legislature to grant. The Committee conceive therefore that the House would deem the equalization of the poor rate, if practicable, purchased too dearly at such a price. There is however one species of income derived from personal property, the dividends payable to the public creditor, which though it has been decided not to come within the existing law, as being neither local nor visible, is yet free certainly from the above difficulties, and if it presented no others, would afford a facility of assessment which has naturally suggested it as a convenient source of contribution. But without considering in what proportions a sum raised by an assessment on such property should be distributed among all the parishes of England and Wales, to none of which it has any local relation, it is a far more important question for the consideration of the House, whether justice and good faith to the public creditor would permit the income derived from this one species of personal property alone to be taxed, in direct violation of the clause in every loan act, by which the payment of the dividends is secured, "free from all taxes, charges, and impositions," when almost all property of a similar description is practically exempted. In the case of the income tax, the profits of all personal property were brought into equal contribution for the general purposes of the empire; in this instance it is proposed to select one species of such property for taxation, which has been by law specially exempted, and to apply it in aid of the disbursement in
local

local districts, in the control and administration of which this class of contributors would alone have no share. It must be recollected also that even the general tax on income did not attach on the dividends due to a foreigner: and that the stockholders, inhabitants of Ireland and Scotland, must be considered, with reference to the poor rate, in the same light. Nor can the Committee think, that either justice or policy would permit a tax to be imposed on money lent to the state, while sums at interest on other securities remain practically exempt.

If, therefore, it should be deemed neither practicable to provide the means for rating all personal property, nor wise or just to select one species of such property, so circumstanced, for taxation, it may be still considered, whether any other means could be devised of correcting the inequality of the assessment, in parishes in which the occupier of land now bears the principal part of the burthen. As each householder is likely to burthen the parish in proportion to the number of persons he employs in his service, it has been suggested, that it would be equitable that his contribution to the poor rate should bear some proportion to that number. An obvious objection, however, to any such arrangement presents itself, in the case of the numerous persons employed by manufactures; and from the possibility of such a principle of assessment creating, in other cases also, some discouragement to employment. But if this, or any other expedient on a similar principle could be adopted, which would bring other pro-

perty in aid of the land, it would in that case become doubly necessary to provide effectually against the mischief of a practice, to which the Committee must more particularly advert hereafter, of making up the deficiency of the wages of labour out of the poor rate. While that rate is derived chiefly from land, the occupier pays, in the shape of poor rate, what should be more properly paid in wages; he still, however, throws some share of the burthen of the maintenance of his labourers on other contributors, according to the share of the rate. But if personal property were brought effectually in aid, the mischief of this practice would become of intolerable magnitude, and would produce, perhaps, more injustice than the present inequality of the rate.

In large towns little inequality in the mode of assessment might be expected to prevail; but various representations have been made to your Committee, of a large proportion of property necessarily escaping its share of contribution, from tenements being of small value, rented for short periods, and the occupiers, who alone can be rated under the existing law, either quitting their residence before the rate can be collected, or being too poor to admit of the rate being levied; while, it is represented, the proprietors find no difficulty in securing a rent, which is increased in the exact proportion of the amount of the rate which is due, but impossible to collect. In these cases the deficiencies arising from this cause must be added to the succeeding rate, and paid by the
more

more industrious class of occupiers. This complaint is not new to the House, their attention having been called to the subject by the application from the town of Birmingham, for relief from this alleged grievance; and though the House rejected a proposed Bill, for rating the owners of such tenements in that town, in default of payment by the occupiers; yet as that vote might have proceeded from the provision being proposed to be local, which, if expedient, the House might have thought should be general, the Committee feel it their duty to represent, that similar applications have been made to them from other quarters, from Bristol, Brighthelmstone, Hull, Manchester, Portsea, and Coventry, in each of which a large portion of the property of the town escapes contribution, from the poverty or transient residence of the tenant; while the landlord secures on that very account an increased rent. The objection to rating the owners, instead of the occupiers, which would at once equalize the burthen in such towns, is, that it would be introducing a new principle into this law, whereby persons would be made to contribute to the rates, who are not on the spot to control the expenditure. Such, at least, is the objection stated in the Report of the Committee, to whom the different provisions of various local acts for the management of the poor were referred in the year 1813;* who, nevertheless, were of opinion, that

in particular instances, some departure from the general law might be expedient. But your Committee cannot wholly concur in the reasoning of that Report, because they conceive that the occupiers of such tenements are much more likely to bring a burthen upon the parish than to control its expenditure; and they are disposed to think, that such beneficial control would most probably be produced by the owner having, in these instances, a more direct interest than at present in the disbursements of the parish. In the assessment of lands, it would undoubtedly, for obvious reasons, be far otherwise. In the case of houses, however, it seems of far more importance to preserve the principle of making all property contribute equally when it is practicable, than to adhere to the law of rating the occupier rather than the owner, by which, as in the case of Birmingham, nearly half the rental of the town, and above three-fourths of the houses, escape a burthen which it largely contributes to create. On this subject the committee can speak from experience, for the practice has been adopted with perfect success, and without a complaint, as it should seem, in the parishes of Christ Church, Spitalfields, Shadwell, Gravesend, and probably others which have not come within the knowledge of your committee. In such cases the landlord, no doubt, makes his agreement with his tenant accordingly, and has no reasonable ground of complaint, if he is deprived of that part of his rent which should in justice have been paid to the parish fund. If it were possible
to

* See Report ordered to be printed 26th March, 1813.

to distinguish in any enactment between parishes in large towns and those in the country, your committee would recommend such an alteration in the persons rated, to be limited to parishes of the former description. But if that should be found, as they fear, impracticable, they would still recommend such a general provision, exempting cottages below a certain value, from its operation. By which exemption, such cottages as are now rated, would be excluded from the assessment.

With the same view of making all property contribute to the relief of the poor, where it is practicable, the committee think that provision should be made to prevent extra-parochial places being exonerated from this burthen. Whether they should be made contributory to some other district, or compelled themselves to provide for their own poor, it is obviously most unjust, that burthens properly belonging to them should continue to be borne by others.

The committee are well aware, that however important and desirable it undoubtedly is to equalize this heavy burthen, yet if new funds are provided, it should at the same time be remembered, that a facility of expenditure will be also created. But whether the assessment be confined to land and houses, or other denomination of property be made practically liable to the same charge, your committee feel it their imperious duty to state to the House their opinion,

that, unless some efficacious check be interposed, there is every reason to think that the amount of the assessment will continue, as it has done, to increase, till at a period more or less remote, according to the progress the evil has already made in different places, it shall have absorbed the profits of the property on which the rate may have been assessed, producing thereby the neglect and ruin of the land, and the waste or removal of other property, to the utter subversion of that happy order of society so long upheld in these kingdoms.

The gradual increase which has taken place, both in the number of paupers, and in the assessments for their support, can hardly fail to have arisen from causes inherent in the system itself, as it does not appear to have depended entirely upon any temporary or local circumstance. Scarcity of provisions, and a diminished demand for particular manufactures, have occasioned from time to time an increased pressure in particular parishes, and at no former time in so great a degree as during the early part of the present. But by comparing the assessments in the two counties in this kingdom, in which the largest portion is employed in agriculture, namely Bedfordshire and Herefordshire, it will be seen that there has been the same progressive augmentation in the amount of the assessments, as may be observed to have taken place in the manufacturing counties.

	Money expended on Paupers, in the Year ending Easter 1776.	Medium average of Annual Expenditure on account of Pau- pers, in Years ending Easter 1783, 1784, 1785.	Expenditure on pau- pers, in Year ending Easter 1803.	Expenditure on pau- pers, in Year ending 25 March 1815.
County of	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
HEREFORD	10,593 7 2	16,727 13 2	48,067 8 10	59,255 19 0
BEDFORD	16,662 17 1	20,977 0 11	38,070 3 8	50,370 10 11

What number of years, under the existing laws and management, would probably elapse, and to what amount the assessments might possibly be augmented, before the utmost limitation would be reached, cannot be accurately ascertained; but with regard to the first, your committee think it their duty to point out, that many circumstances which, in the early periods of the system, rendered its progress slow, are now unfortunately changed. The independent spirit of mind which induced individuals in the labouring classes to exert themselves to the utmost, before they submitted to become paupers, is much impaired; this order of persons therefore are every day becoming less and less unwilling to add themselves to the list of paupers. The workhouse system, though enacted with other views, yet for a long time acted very powerfully in deterring persons from throwing themselves on their parishes for relief; there were many who would struggle through their difficulties, rather than undergo the discipline of a workhouse; this effect however is no longer produced in the same degree, as by two modern statutes the justices have power under certain conditions to order relief to be given out of the workhouses,

and the number of persons to whom relief is actually given, being now far more than any workhouses would contain, the system itself is from necessity, as well as by law, materially relaxed.

In addition to these important considerations, it is also apparent, that in whatever degree the addition to the number of paupers depends upon their increase by birth, that addition will probably be greater than in past times, in the proportion in which the present number of paupers exceeds that which formerly existed; and it is almost needless to point out, that, when the public undertakes to maintain all who may be born, without charge to the parents, the number born will probably be greater than in the natural state. On these grounds, therefore, your committee are led to apprehend, that the rate at which the increase would take place under the existing laws, would be greater than it has heretofore been; but at whatever rate the increase might take place, it could not fail materially to depend on the general state of the country, whether it was in an improving, a stationary, or a declining state, and it would also be affected by the recurrence of plentiful or deficient harvests.

With regard to the second point, namely,

namely, the probable amount beyond which the assessments cannot be augmented, your Committee have again to lament, that the returns collected in 1816 are not yet before them in detail, and there are no means of ascertaining with sufficient accuracy, either the amount of the rates now assessed, or the gross rental of the property on which they are levied. Whatever indeed that may be, it appears to be certain that the land owners and the farmers would cease to have an adequate interest in continuing the cultivation of the land, long before the gross amount of the present rental could be transferred to the poor rate; for it is obvious, that a number of charges must be provided for out of the gross rental of land, without an adequate provision for which the land cannot be occupied; the general expenses of management, the construction and repairs of buildings, drains, and other expensive works, to which the tenant's capital cannot reach, constitute the principal part of these charges, and the portion of the gross rent which is applied to these purposes, can never be applied to the augmentation of the poor rate.

Even if it can be thought possible that any landlord could suffer his land to be occupied and cultivated, or that he would continue to give to it the general superintendence of an owner, when the whole of the net rental was transferred to the poor, it is perfectly clear that no tenant could hold a farm upon the condition of maintaining all the poor who might under any circumstances want relief; it would be as much im-

possible for a tenant to do so as to undertake to pay any rent which the wants of his landlord might induce him to desire, which condition could never be complied with. The apprehension, however, of being placed in such a situation as this, could not fail to deter persons from holding land long before they paid to the poor rate as much as they would otherwise pay in rent; and as under these circumstances, the landowner would still remain entitled to the soil, the paupers could not enter and cultivate for themselves; nor could it be occupied for any beneficial purpose, as whatever stock might be found on the land would be liable to distress for poor rate.

The consequences which are likely to result from this state of things are clearly set forth in the petition from the parish of Wombridge, in Salop, which is fast approaching to this state: the petitioners state, "that the annual value of land, mines, and houses in this parish, is not sufficient to maintain the numerous and increasing poor, even if the same were to be set free of rent; and that these circumstances will inevitably compel the occupiers of lands and mines to relinquish them, and the poor will be without relief or any known mode of obtaining it, unless some assistance be speedily afforded them." And your Committee apprehend, from the petitions before them, that this is one only of many parishes that are fast approaching to a state of dereliction.

By following the dictates of their own interests, land owners and farmers become, in the natural

order of things, the best trustees and guardians for the public; when that order of things is destroyed, and a compulsory maintenance established for all who require it, the consequences cannot fail in the end to be equally ruinous to both parties. These impressions, upon subjects of such great importance, could not fail to induce your committee to take into their consideration whatever plans could be referred to or suggested, the object of which might be to check and modify the system itself, a duty to which they were the more strongly urged by the view which had presented itself to their consideration of the state of society, created by an extensive system of pauperism, and which led them, for the sake of the paupers themselves, to seek for the means of setting again into action those motives which impel persons, by the hope of bettering their condition on the one hand, and the fear of want on the other, so to exert and conduct themselves, as by frugality, temperance, and industry, and by the practice of those other virtues on which human happiness has been made to depend, to ensure to themselves that condition of existence in which life can alone be otherwise than a miserable burthen; the temptations to idleness, to improvidence, and want of forethought, are under any circumstances so numerous and enticing, that nothing less than the dread of the evils, which are their natural consequence, appears to be sufficiently strong in any degree to control them; which the neglect and absence of those virtues, as long indeed as fresh funds

can be found for their relief, those evils may in some degree be mitigated; but when such resources can no longer be found, then will these evils be felt in their full force; and as the gradual addition of fresh funds can only create an increased number of paupers, it is obvious that the amount of the misery which must be endured, when these funds can no longer be augmented, will be the greater (though the longer delayed) the greater the supplies are, which may be applied to the relief of pauperism, inasmuch as the suffering to be endured must be increased with the number of sufferers.

Your committee forbear to expatiate on these considerations which have pressed themselves on their attention; they have said enough to show the grounds which induce them to think that the labouring classes can only be plunged deeper and more hopelessly into the evils of pauperism, by the constant application of additional sums of money to be distributed by the poor rate; true benevolence and real charity point to other means, which your committee cannot so well express as in the emphatic language of Mr. Burke; "patience, labour, frugality, sobriety, and religion, should be recommended to them; all the rest is downright fraud."*

With the view then of providing such a check as may lay the foundation for a better system, it may be worth the most serious consideration, whether a provision of various local acts by which the assessment
itself

* Thoughts and Details on Scarcity. Burke's Works, vol. vii. p. 337.

itself was limited for the time to come, might not be applied to all other parishes or districts. Your committee are not aware that such a provision would be less practicable, as applied generally, than locally; and it would obviously not only operate in aid of any other check to expenditure which might be devised, but would necessitate a degree of economy, which would probably be more effectual than any detailed regulations which could be prescribed by particular enactments, and render necessary such careful and just discrimination in selecting the properest objects of relief, as would contribute materially to put an end to numberless evils arising from the lax administration of the poor laws; the check, indeed, which is proposed is perfectly consonant with the nature of things, not only individuals, but states themselves are compelled to limit their expenditure according to their means; and the money raised for the poor being strictly a tax, is in no greater degree capable of unlimited extension, when applied to relieve the necessities of the poor than for the purposes of the state. Whether the future assessments should be limited in the first instance to the amount of any one year, or to an average of many, your committee think the amount in each succeeding year, not exceeding seven, ten, or even a greater number, should then afford an average, taken always from the last seven, ten, or greater number; by which means a diminution in the amount might be afforded, without the possibility, on the other hand, of an increase beyond the original limitation. It

is fit, however, to apprise the House, that it was thought necessary by the legislature, in the year 1795, to relieve these parishes from the obligation of this clause, "by reason (as it is stated) of the late very great increase of the price of corn, and other necessary articles of life." They were, therefore, enabled to raise sums exceeding the amount of the limited assessment, whenever the average price of wheat in Mark-lane exceeded the average price at the same market, during those years from which the average amount of the poor rates were taken. But a new limitation was again imposed by the same act, providing, that after the 1st January, 1798, no assessment should exceed double the sum raised in 1795. And your committee apprehend, that this limitation remains still in force. In case it was thought expedient to adopt this limitation of assessment generally, it appears to your committee, that provision might be made against such an emergency as that of the year 1795, without abandoning the principle, by providing, that in case of an urgent and unforeseen necessity, far exceeding any such average, the vestry of the parish might apply to the justices, in their quarter sessions, for an aid from the county to the amount of one moiety of such necessary excess, and for permission to raise the other moiety, by way of assessment within the parish, in addition to such average amount; and if the justices, or a committee of them appointed for that purpose, should, after examination on oath as to the necessity of such excess of expenditure, be of opinion that

it was unavoidable, they might order the moiety of such excess required for the ensuing quarter to be paid out of the county rate, (subject to exception in the case of a parish whose rate is below the average ratio of the county) and make an order to permit the overseers, &c. to levy the other moiety, by way of assessment, on the parish. The necessity of the strictest economy, which would be created by the limitation of the rate, would not, it is hoped, be impaired under this strict scrutiny, in case of excess. For an interest would thus be given to the justices, to make the examination into the expenditure of such parish rigorous; and further, to regard continually the mode in which the poor are managed and maintained in the different parishes of their county. It would be necessary also to provide, that the power to levy the augmented rate should never be continued longer than the duration of the temporary exigency which gave occasion to it.

The House are aware, that by the statute of Elizabeth, the parishes of the hundred, and in some instances those of the county, might be rated in aid of every parish in which the inhabitants are not able to levy sufficient sums for the relief of their poor: great difficulties however have occurred in practice, from the want of a clear definition of such inability; nor does it afford any sufficient security against the mismanagement or misapplication of the funds of one parish being rendered, against every principle of equity, a charge on others, who had no share or interest in such ex-

penditure; and on these grounds your committee are not disposed to recommend any facility being granted for the execution of this provision of the law.

Your committee cannot close their observations on the subject of the assessment, without advert- ing to a suggestion which has been made to them from various and respectable quarters; that the maintenance of the poor should be made, by way of equalizing the burthen, national rather than pa- rochial. To this proposal your committee feel one, among vari- ous other difficulties, which ap- pears to them insuperable, and of such a nature and magnitude as to supersede the necessity of entering into the other considerations con- nected with such a measure. They refer to the impossibility of devising any adequate means to check the demands upon such a fund, when every excess in parochial disburse- ments would be merged in the general expenditure of the em- pire.

If your committee have been desirous to recommend some gra- dual but effectual check to the otherwise certain growth, and ul- timately inevitable effect of the present system of the poor laws, they have not been less attentive to the duty of suggesting every possible means of affording spe- cial encouragement and facility to meritorious industry, for rescuing itself from the evils of an habitual reliance on parochial relief, and they have looked to this part of the subject with the more anxiety, from the entire conviction, that, in pro- portion to the aggregate number of persons who are reduced to this unfortunate dependance, must be not

not only the increase of misery to each individual, but also the moral deterioration of the people, and ultimately, from the concurrent tendency of these evils, the insecurity and danger of the state itself.

The encouragement of frugal habits would, in any state of society, be an object of importance; but your committee are strongly impressed with the opinion, that, in the present situation of the poor in this country, it is chiefly by the gradual restoration of a feeling of reliance upon their own industry, rather than upon the parochial assessments, that the transition to a more wholesome system can be effected.

Your committee have the satisfaction of seeing, that institutions for the secure and profitable deposit of the earnings of the industrious, which was heretofore projected, are now, by the spontaneous exertions of individuals, in actual and successful operation; and from the growth of the system of Saving Banks, they are inclined to expect very beneficial results, not only in affording to the industrious poor a secure deposit for their savings, but in familiarizing them with a practice, of which the advantage will be daily more apparent.

Other institutions founded upon a principle of mutual assurance, are familiar to the people, and as far as they provide for sickness and old age, and some other casualties, have received the sanction of Parliament, under the name of Friendly Societies. Your Committee have reason to believe that these societies, judiciously managed, have in some parishes tended greatly to the melioration of the

condition of the people; but they trust that they may be enabled to set before the people, in a way that they cannot misunderstand, the means of securing their own comfort and happiness, by holding out advantages exceeding in amount any that the existing establishments with which they are familiar can offer, with the certainty of the advantages offered, viz. relief in sickness, and an annuity in old age being secured by the contribution of the parish. Your Committee is therefore of opinion, that it will be expedient to enable parishes to establish Parochial Benefit Societies, under the joint management of the contributors and the nominees of the parish, calculated to afford greater pecuniary advantages than could result from the unaided contributions of the subscribers. Your Committee trust, that, holding out to the people benefits somewhat superior in amount and security, to any which they can now obtain by the contributions of their earnings, and adding some which are not generally afforded by voluntary association, they may be enabled to render these institutions not less popular than advantageous. They are of opinion therefore, that parishes should be enabled to afford to the contributors a benefit rather greater than that which a table formed on mere calculation would yield; and in order to adapt their new system to the situation of the country, under the administration of the poor laws, your Committee are of opinion, that at the outset of these institutions, parishes should be permitted to place, by contribution from the parochial funds, those who have advanced in years without having made

made any provision of this nature, on the footing of advantage on which they would have stood, if they had commenced their contributions at an earlier age.

Your Committee is well aware, that under present circumstances the incapacity of individuals to make even the smallest deduction from their wages, may render this species of institution inapplicable in some parts of the country; but they conceive, that it may safely be left to each parish, under the inspection of the local magistracy, to determine upon the propriety of trying the experiment within itself.

The casualties, however, for which friendly societies generally provide, namely, those of sickness and old age, do not constitute the greater proportion of the demands upon the poor's rate which have raised it to its present high amount; a much greater proportion, as they shall have occasion to observe, consists of the allowances distributed in most parts of England to the labouring poor, in addition to their wages, by reason of the number of their children.

Your Committee are of opinion, that parochial benefit societies may furnish facilities for affecting the desired transition, from the present system of relief to one founded upon better principles; and that it would therefore be expedient under the present circumstances of the country, to enable parishes to increase the benefits of the institutions, to an extent beyond the precise result of the contribution required; or, at least, to pay for the admission into those benefits of persons now having large families, and receiving relief on that account. Each parish, consider-

ing what it now pays for the maintenance of children, would be the best judge for itself of the policy of adopting this course.

In the view with which the Committee suggest the expediency of affording this assistance from the parochial funds, it is essential that, whatever may be the contribution in the first instance, the parish should have the power of reducing prospectively its proportion, without affecting the rights of existing contributors, so as gradually to render the people dependent upon their own contributions only; but in the meantime they may be used in destroying the familiarity with parish pay, which it is above all things desirable to eradicate.

Your Committee have taken measures for ascertaining by calculation, the operation of societies formed upon the principle which they have recommended; and on this ground, as well as on account of the impracticability of framing any Bill upon this subject in the present session, they forbear from entering into the detail of the arrangements which have occurred to them, as desirable for effectuating their recommendation.

But the House may perhaps think it reasonable, that persons who have the option of partaking in the advantages which it is thus proposed to secure to them, should be subjected to an administration of the laws of relief, rather less favourable than that which is applied to the community in general; and particularly that the benefits of the Act 36 Geo. III. c. 23, and 54 Geo. III. c. 170, respecting workhouses, should be withheld from such persons.

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They cannot, however, quit this topic without observing, that a bill passed this House in the year 1789, having for its object much of what the Committee have now recommended, and accompanied by tables which the Committee have reason to hope may be found useful in arranging any similar measure. One of the tables will be found in the Appendix.

Having submitted to the House such observations as have occurred to them, with respect to the assessment of the poor rate, your Committee proceed to consider the purposes for which it is authorized to be levied, as they regard the persons entitled to relief, and the mode in which it should be administered. These will be found, by a reference to the same part of the fundamental law of Elizabeth, to be directed to—

1st. Setting to work the children of all those whose parents shall not be thought able to maintain them.

2nd. Setting to work all persons having no means to maintain them, and using no ordinary or daily trade to get their bread by.

3rd. The necessary relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such other among them as are poor and not able to work, as well as for apprenticing such children as are before described.

And it appears to your Committee, that the above description and classification of persons entitled to relief has not been intentionally altered by any subsequent statute; that the general term, *the Poor*, contained in all subsequent acts on this subject, has reference only to the poor as above classed and defined in the 43d of

Elizabeth; and though the persons entitled to relief, and the sort of relief, seem to be pointed out with sufficient clearness; yet the practice has in many instances long been at variance with the law. The statute directs the children to be set to work; the almost general practice is to give money to the parents, without any provision for setting the children to work. The course adopted requires, undoubtedly, less trouble and attention than the providing and superintending proper establishments for their moral instruction, employment, and maintenance; and this deviation from the injunction of the statute obtained so early as to have attracted the attention of Lord Hale and Mr. Locke; and the Committee cannot but avail themselves of the high authority of a Report of the Board of Trade, in the year 1697, drawn up by Mr. Locke, and confirmed (if it needed confirmation) by the concurrence of the other Commissioners, after an exercise of the full powers of inquiry conferred on them for this purpose by King William the Third, and which appears to your committee still more applicable to the present moment than to the time at which it was written.

“The children of labouring people are an ordinary burthen to the parish, and are usually maintained in idleness, so that their labour also is generally lost to the public, till they are twelve or fourteen years old. The most effectual remedy for this, that we are able to conceive, and which we therefore humbly propose is, that working schools be set up in each parish, to which the children

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of all such as demand relief of the parish, above three and under fourteen years of age, whilst they live at home with their parents, and are not otherwise employed for their livelihood, by the allowance of the overseer of the poor, shall be obliged to come. By this means the mother will be eased of a great part of her trouble in looking after and providing for them at home, and so be at more liberty to work; the children will be kept in much better order, be better provided for, and from their infancy be inured to work, which is of no small consequence to the making of them sober and industrious all their lives after; and the parish will be either eased of this burthen, or at least of the misase in the present management of it; for a great number of children giving a poor man a title to an allowance from the parish, this allowance is given once a week, or once a month to the father in money, which he, not seldom, spends on himself at the alehouse, whilst his children (for whose sake he had it) are left to suffer, or perish under the want of necessaries, unless the charity of neighbours relieve them. We humbly conceive, that a man and his wife in health may be able, by their ordinary labour, to maintain themselves and two children; more than two children at one time under the age of three years will seldom happen in one family; if, therefore, all the children above three years old be taken off their hands, those who have never so many, whilst they remain themselves in health, will not need any allowance for them. We do not suppose that children of three

years old will be able, at that age, to get their livelihoods at the working school; but we are sure, that what is necessary for their relief will more effectually have that use, if it be distributed to them in bread at that school, than if it be given to their fathers in money. What they have at home from their parents is seldom more than bread and water, and that, many of them, very scantily too; if, therefore, care be taken, that they have each of them their belly full of bread daily at school, they will be in no danger of famishing; but, on the contrary, they will be healthier and stronger than those who are bred otherwise. Nor will this practice cost the overseer any trouble, for a baker may be agreed with to furnish and bring into the school house every day the allowance of bread necessary for all the scholars that are there. And to this may be added also, without any trouble, in cold weather, if it be thought needful, a little warm water-gruel; for the same fire that warms the room may be made use of to boil a pot of it. From this method the children will not only reap the forementioned advantages, with far less charge to the parish than what is now done for them, and apply themselves to work, because otherwise they will have no victuals; and also the benefit thereby, both to themselves and the parish, will daily increase; for the earnings of their labour at school every day increasing, it may reasonably be concluded, that computing all the earnings of a child from three to fourteen years of age, the nourishment and teaching of such child, during that whole time, will

will cost the parish nothing ; whereas there is no child now which from its birth is maintained by the parish, but before the age of fourteen, costs the parish fifty or sixty pounds. Another advantage also of bringing poor children thus to a working school is, that by this means they may be obliged to come constantly to church every Sunday along with their schoolmasters or dames, whereby they may be brought into some sense of religion : whereas ordinarily now, in their loose and idle way of breeding up, they are as utter strangers both to religion and morality as they are to industry. In order, therefore, to the more effectually carrying on this work to the advantage of this kingdom, we further humbly propose that these schools be generally for spinning or knitting, or some other part of the woollen manufacture, unless in countries where the place shall furnish some other materials fitter for the employment of such poor children ; in which places the choice of those materials for their employment may be left to the prudence and direction of the guardians of the poor of that hundred ; and that the teaching in these schools be paid out of the poor rates, as can be agreed.

“ This, though at first setting up, it may cost the parish a little, yet we humbly conceive that the earnings of the children abating the charge of their maintenance, and as much work being required of each of them as they are reasonably able to perform, it will quickly pay its own charges, with an overplus.

“ That, where the number of

the poor children of any parish is greater than for them all to be employed in one school, they be there divided into two, and the boys and girls, if thought convenient, taught and kept to work separately. That the handicraftsmen in each hundred be bound to take every other of their respective apprentices from amongst the boys in some one of the schools in the said hundred, without any money, which boys they may so take at what age they please, to be bound to them till the age of twenty-three years, that so the length of time may more than make amends for the usual sums that are given to handicraftsmen with such apprentices.

“ That those also in the hundred who keep in their hands land of their own to the value of 25*l.* per annum, or upwards, may chuse out of the schools of the said hundred what boy each of them pleases, to be his apprentice in husbandry upon the same condition.

“ That whatever boys are not by this means bound out apprentices before they are full fourteen, shall, at the Easter meeting of the guardians of each hundred every year, be bound to such gentlemen, yeomen, or farmers, within the said hundred, as have the greatest number of acres of land in their hands, who shall be obliged to take them for their apprentices till the age of twenty-three, or bind them out at their own cost to some handicraftsmen ; provided always, that no such gentleman, yeoman, or farmer, shall be bound to have two such apprentices at a time.”

There can have been no period
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at which the literal and faithful execution of the law so strongly recommended, and by such high authority, can have been more indispensable than at the present moment; and some facilities appear to offer themselves at this time, which have not existed at former periods; the institution of parochial or district schools for education, proposed some years since as the basis of an amended system, are now so generally established and supported by voluntary subscriptions, that they appear to afford the readiest means by which education and industry may be most advantageously united. And if the large sums of money now given to the parents were really bestowed on the maintenance of their children in such schools, it would probably more than defray the expense of such an institution.

The Committee would therefore recommend most earnestly a more faithful execution of the existing law by the establishment of schools for the above purposes; and they believe such institutions would be in all respects more beneficial, if the children were lodged where they would be employed and maintained, for in extensive parishes the daily attendance of the younger class would be impracticable; and where proper establishments for these purposes shall be adopted to the satisfaction of two justices, who shall certify the same, relief should no longer be given on account of such children as shall be of a fit age to be there instructed and maintained. And if it should be found that the 43d of Elizabeth aided by the 9th Geo. I. has not provided suffi-

cient means for the accomplishment of its own purpose, new powers should be given to parishes for this end.

In such an execution of the directions of the 43d Eliz. to set to work the children of parents who cannot maintain them, your Committee see, besides the advantages so forcibly above stated, the only remedy for that practice which has prevailed in the south of England particularly, of defraying what should be part of the wages of labour out of the poor rates, according to an uniform scale of relief, to which an undeviating adherence is in some instances required, without reference to any other consideration than the numbers of the family of the claimant, and the amount of their actual present earnings, and the price of bread. Higher wages may have been squandered away, and the actual earnings may be far less than increased and reasonable industry might secure, and yet the amount of relief is unvaried. Such a practice, by placing the idle and industrious upon an equal footing, must necessarily destroy every human motive to exertion; nor does your Committee conceive it to be strictly consonant to law; for an order of relief they apprehend to be invalid that does not adjudge the party to be "impotent" as well as "poor." It has familiarized the labourer to a dependence upon the parish, which he would formerly have considered as a degradation, has imposed upon those contributors to the rate who employ no labourers a most unjust burthen, and has swelled the amount of the assessment to a degree

gree that makes it impossible to ascertain how much should be considered as a relief, properly speaking, and how much wages. This deviation from the provisions of the 13d Elizabeth, may perhaps have arisen not only from the neglect of providing proper places for setting to work such children, but from the necessity of abandoning the practice at that time enjoined by law, of regulating the wages of labour, by which it was attempted to bring to one standard the value of each man's labour, which must be in the nature of things unequal; and your committee would deeply lament, if the continuance of the present low price of labour, and of this practice growing out of it, should create a general wish throughout the kingdom to revive those laws, which have not only been abandoned in practice, but at length repealed by the legislature; whereas, if such children were set to work and maintained as the law directs, this practice would scarcely continue in any great degree to prevail.

On this general head, however, your committee think it their duty, in pursuance of their wish, to suggest to the House such provisions as may tend to remove the general dependence on the poor rate; to submit for their consideration, whether, when the demand for labour may have revived, it may not safely be provided, that, from and after a certain time, no relief shall be extended to any child whose father being living, is under — years of age; a principle, which by altering the age from time to time, might, if it should be thought de-

sirable, be carried still further into operation.

It may also be provided with a similar view, that from and after a specified time, no relief shall be provided for any child whose father being living, has not above — children under — years of age.

The next provision of the statute directs the overseers “in like manner, to take order for setting to work all such persons, married or unmarried, as have no means to maintain them, and use no ordinary or daily trade of life to get their bread by;” and it then prescribes the manner in which this is to be done, which is directed to be “by raising a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, or other necessary stuff or ware, to set the poor on work.”

These plain and simple provisions continue to this day to be the rules and authority by which the overseers and magistrates are bound to govern themselves, in setting able-bodied poor to work.

The act of 9 Geo. I. cap. 7, which enables parishes to establish workhouses, was designed to limit, rather than enlarge, the powers above recited; by providing that the work, as above prescribed, should be carried on under the superintendence of the overseers, in houses to be provided for the purpose.

What class of persons it is who are described as “using no ordinary or daily trade of life to get their living by,” cannot at any time have been very easy correctly to ascertain; the words were probably, in the first instance, to apply to such persons as appear to have

have been the object of all the old statutes to which your committee have before alluded. Your committee, however, think it extremely doubtful, whether persons who may from time to time be out of work, but who for the most part occupy themselves in a daily trade, ought to be comprehended within the description of the statute.

But whatever may be the class of persons to which the description of the statute applies, it is clear, that the powers of the overseer as to setting them to work, are, by the existing law, confined within narrow limits; they are to be employed in working “flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, or any other ware or stuff.”

Your committee have already explained the manner in which they think provision should be made for such children as it may be necessary to maintain and employ; it is their duty now to state to the House, their opinions on the subject of providing work for all such persons as may require it. If the object of the statute was merely to set to hard labour such idle wandering persons as might be found in a state nearly approaching to that of vagrancy, such an object might possibly be carried into effect, with a fair hope of beneficial consequences; but if the object of the statute was (as it is now interpreted) that the state is to find work for all, who in the present and in all succeeding time may require it, your committee are of opinion, that this is a condition which it is not in the power of any law to fulfil. What number of persons can be employed in labour, must depend absolutely upon the amount

of the funds which alone are applicable to the maintenance of labour.

In whatever way these funds may be applied or expended, the quantity of labour maintained by them in the first instance, would be very nearly the same. The immediate effect of a compulsory application of the whole or a part of these funds, is to change the application, not to alter the amount of them. Whatever portion is applied under the provisions of the law, would have been applied to some other object had the money been left to the distribution of the original owner; whoever therefore is maintained by the law as a labouring pauper, is maintained only instead of some other individual, who would otherwise have earned by his own industry the money bestowed on the pauper; as long as the amount of the funds remains the same, the effect of a compulsory distribution would not be such as materially to alter the total number of labourers employed; but there are many modes by which the compulsory application under the provisions of a statute, of the funds which provide the maintenance of labour, would tend most materially to place the labouring classes in a much worse condition than that in which they would otherwise be situated.

1st. An increased demand for labour is the only means by which the wages of labour can ever be raised; and there is nothing which can increase the demand, but the increase of the wealth by which labour is supported; if therefore the compulsory application of any part of this wealth tends

tends (as it always must tend) to employ the portion it distributes less profitably than it would have been, if left to the interested superintendence of its owners, it cannot fail, by thus diminishing the funds which would otherwise have been applicable to the maintenance of labour, to place the whole body of labourers in a worse situation than that in which they would otherwise have been placed.

2dly. The effects of holding out to the labouring community, that all who require it shall be provided with work at adequate wages, is such as to lead them to form false views of the circumstances in which they are likely to be placed. As the demand for labour depends absolutely on the amount of the wealth which constitutes its support, so the rate of wages can only be adjusted by the proportion that demand bears to the supply. Now it is on the greater or less degree of nicety in which that supply is adjusted to the demand, that the happiness of the labouring classes absolutely depends.

If the demand for labour increases faster than the supply, high wages are the natural result; labourers are enabled to provide better for their children; a larger proportion of those born are reared; the burthen, too, of a large family is rendered lighter; and in this manner the marriage and multiplication of labourers are encouraged, and an increasing supply is enabled to follow an increased demand. If, on the contrary, the waste or diminution of wealth should reduce the demand for labour, wages must inevitably fall, and the comforts of the labourer will be diminished, the

marriage and multiplication discouraged until the supply is gradually adapted to the reduced demand. It is obvious, that the condition of a country, whilst this latter course is in progress, must be painful; but it is more or less so according to the degree in which the foresight of the industrious classes might have prepared them for such a reverse. The habits and customs of the labouring classes in different countries must in a great degree depend on the circumstances which, by affecting the demand for labour, regulate the condition in which they are content to exist. But where prudent habits are established, they avail themselves of a high rate of wages, to better their condition, rather than greatly to increase their numbers. In England a labourer would not, formerly, have thought himself justified in marrying unless he had the means of providing himself with many things which in other countries would have been deemed unnecessary luxuries. In a state similar to this, if the labouring classes are met by a fall in wages, they will always have something to spare, which will assist in mitigating any difficulties to which they may be exposed.

Though it is by contemplating the possibility of a reverse that they can alone be stimulated to prepare for it, it is, unfortunately, far less difficult to induce men to neglect all such preparation: by holding out to the labouring classes, that they shall at all times be provided with adequate employment, they are led to believe they have nothing to dread while they are willing to labour. The
supply

supply of labour, therefore, which they alone have the power to regulate, is left constantly to increase, without any reference to the demand, or to the funds on which it depends. Under these circumstances, if the demand for labour suddenly decreases, the provisions of the poor law alone are looked to, to supply the place of all those circumstances which result only from vigilance and caution. The powers of law, whilst they profess to compel both labour and wages to be provided, under these circumstances, in reality effect nothing but a more wasteful application of the diminished capital than would otherwise take place: they tend thereby materially to reduce the real wages of free labour, and thus essentially to injure the labouring classes. In this situation of things, not only the labourers, who have hitherto maintained themselves, are reduced, by the perversion of the funds of their employers, to seek assistance from the rate, but the smaller capitalists themselves are gradually reduced, by the burthen of the assessments, to take refuge in the same resource. The effect of these compulsory distributions is to pull down what is above, not to raise what is low; and they depress high and low together, beneath the level of what was originally lowest.

If these views of the effect of undertaking to provide employment for all who want it are founded in truth, there results from them an obvious necessity of abandoning gradually the impossible condition, that all who require it shall be provided with work, which, whether or not it

be the real object of the statute, has by many been held to be so. On this head, your committee submit, that if the provision which they have pointed out be made for children whose parents cannot maintain them, and the provision also for such as are of the class of poor and impotent be continued, the labouring classes will continue to be relieved from the heaviest part of their necessities. But if any portion of the general and indiscriminate relief which is now given must of necessity be withheld, your committee think it can be withheld from none by whom the privation could so well be borne, as by those who are in the full vigour of health and strength; it may therefore be worthy of consideration, whether, if under favourable circumstances of the country, the demand for labour should again be materially enlarged, it might not be enacted, that no person should be provided with work by the parish, other than those who are already so provided, and who might be permitted to continue until they could provide for themselves; but if the change by this provision might be thought too rapid, limitation might still be provided, the effect of which would render it more gradual, as by enacting, that none shall be provided with employment who are between the ages of 18 and 30; and then after a certain lapse of time, that none between 16 and 35, 40 and so on, until the object shall be gradually effected.

As whatever money would have been applied to the maintenance of these persons by the means of the poor rate, cannot fail to be employed in some such way as to
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put other labour in motion, the money thus restored to its natural channel cannot fail to assist in increasing the natural demand for labour; and if the wages of agricultural labour, which are now in so great a proportion paid through the poor rate, were left to adjust themselves by the operation of the market, it could hardly fail to have the effect of gradually raising the wages of labour: for it is the obvious interest of the farmer that his work should be done with effect and celerity, which can hardly take place unless the labourer is provided according to his habits, with such necessaries of life as may keep his body in full vigour, and his mind gay and cheerful.

If, however, it should be thought wise or even practicable to persevere in endeavouring to provide work for all who want it, fresh powers must certainly be devised for that purpose; the narrow limits and the strict specifications by which the existing authority to set to work is confined, have made your committee somewhat at a loss to ascertain on what legal provision the practices of making up the wages of labour, according to a certain scale, of sending roundsmen, &c. have been imagined to depend. But if labour is to be continued, it would be idle to attempt to prescribe to every parish the means which they should respectively adopt, in order to comply as far as it be possible with such an injunction of the law; and your committee can only recommend all possible facility of providing employment being given, not so much with a view to the profit to be derived from it, as from the necessity of withholding from idleness the wages that

should be due to industry alone; care however should be taken, with a view to the interests of industrious persons, that the local work to be supplied, should be such as will least sensibly interfere with existing occupations and trades. In country parishes, agriculture affords the most obvious and useful source of employment; for though the whole stock of subsistence be thereby increased, yet the cultivator of the land would be more than compensated for any diminution in the value of his produce, by the corresponding diminution of the expense of maintaining his family and labourers, and the more important reduction of the poor rate. Your committee find, that in the county of Kent it has been thought expedient, in two instances, to carry this practice so far as to establish parochial farms in the parishes of Benenden and Cranbrooke; an account of them, which has been communicated to your committee, will be found in the appendix.

If it should be found impracticable or inexpedient, as from the difficulty of providing a careful and economical superintendent over such a concern, it probably may be in the generality of agricultural parishes, to make such an experiment on so large a scale; yet great benefit might, in the opinion of your committee, be derived from some parishes being enabled to possess themselves of as much land as might produce at least an adequate supply of provisions for those whom they are bound to maintain, and would afford the means, which otherwise might be wanting, of bringing to the test the willingness to work of some of the applicants for employment; but

but it would operate still more beneficially, if it enabled parishes collectively, under proper restrictions, to follow the example of those individual proprietors of land, who have been in the practice of letting very small portions of land, on reasonable terms, to industrious labourers, to cultivate on their own account: some of the instances to which your committee allude will be found in the appendix; and they cannot too earnestly recommend them to the practice and imitation of those who have similar opportunities. Where the means of providing a supply of productive labour are wanting, the repair of the roads has been found to afford a useful occupation, and it might be expedient to make the duty of the surveyor of the highways more available to the overseer for the purpose of providing employment.

A practice has long prevailed in agricultural parishes in different parts of the kingdom, of sending men out of work to the inhabitants of the parish, in rotation, according to their share of the rate; and this usage has naturally increased as the demand for labour is diminished, as it appears to afford the means of securing some return for the sums paid. It has been generally, and perhaps wisely, arranged in those cases, that the remuneration for such service should be less than the ordinary wages of labour in the parish, that an inducement might remain to such persons to seek employment for themselves. A proportion of the sum has also been usually paid by the overseers out of the rate. This latter practice has been subject to such abuse, as

to have rendered this mode of setting persons to work highly objectionable; for the occupiers of land are supposed in many instances to get their work thus performed, and paid for, in a great part, out of the parish fund.

With respect to large towns, in the present state of this kingdom, your committee fear the difficulty of fulfilling the obligation of this part of the law must be almost insuperable, notwithstanding all the exertions which can be made to provide useful, if not profitable employment.—Your committee, therefore, feel that all obstacles to seeking employment wherever it can be found, even out of the realm, should be removed; and every facility that is reasonable afforded to those who may wish to resort to some of our own colonies.

The sums to be raised for the relief of the lame, impotent, &c. your committee apprehend can be applied, according to the letter of the law, to the relief of such persons only as the justices can conscientiously adjudge to be not only poor, but impotent. For this appears not only by reference to the 43d Eliz. and the adjudged cases, but the 8th and 9th W. III. c. 30. imposes on those receiving relief as such the necessity of wearing a badge, (since repealed) “to the end that the money raised only for the relief of such as are as well impotent as poor, may not be misapplied or consumed by the idle, sturdy, and disorderly beggars.” Notwithstanding which, chiefly from the want of proper means to set to work their children, and the difficulty of finding employment for those out of work, persons, who are avowedly not
impotent,

impotent, have, by a long course of practice, received pecuniary relief on account of the number of their family. Your committee must, therefore, again state, in how great a degree the faithful execution of the law respecting children would remedy the abuses which have prevailed respecting the administration of pecuniary relief: on this head, therefore, it remains only to consider the mode of giving the relief granted to persons more properly belonging to this class. Whether they should receive the necessary assistance in money, or by a supply of the articles wanted—whether at their own houses, or in workhouses, are questions which it is conceived would be best left to the uncontrolled discretion of their respective parishes.

Your committee are aware how very frequently workhouses have been condemned, as little corresponding with the denomination they have received; and being rather in truth, in many instances, houses of idleness and vice.—Yet in some parishes, from the want of habitations, such establishments seem to be indispensable, to avoid the greater evils of granting pensions to out-lying parishioners. If, by the means which your committee are about to suggest, an improved administration of parochial affairs should be produced, these establishments would undoubtedly derive the immediate benefit of a constant and active superintendence. The proper separation of the respective inmates of such houses can and ought to be regulated at present by the vestry and parish officers, without minute instructions from the legislature;

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and whether it be or be not expedient to incorporate different parishes, under Mr. Gilbert's or local acts, must depend entirely on the circumstances of such parishes and the adjoining districts. As far as your committee can judge, from the imperfect materials before them, they believe that great benefit has been derived from such institutions, in every case in which they have been superintended by the principal inhabitants of the united district; and that their success and advantage depend almost wholly on that circumstance. Under such an impression, they think every facility should be given to render that act available for the purpose; thereby saving the expense which has in various instances been incurred, of resorting to the legislature in particular cases.

It is obviously of the last importance that this enactment respecting the impotent, which was humanely intended to secure the indigent and helpless from actual want, should not be made equally available to the idle and the dissolute. For it is to be recollected, that there will always be a class of persons, and among them the most industrious, who find it difficult, with their utmost labour and exertion, to maintain their families, after having contributed their quota to the assessment. Such is the cultivator of a small farm; of whom it has been said, forcibly and truly, that he "rises early, and it is late before he can retire to rest; he works hard and fares hard, yet with all his labour and his care, he can scarcely provide subsistence for his numerous family. He would feed them better,

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ter, but the prodigal must first be fed ; he would purchase warmer clothing for his children, but the children of the prostitute must first be clothed.* There are others, whose contribution could only be levied by the seizure of that part of their property which the pauper himself is humanely and properly allowed to retain ; till by a late statute (54 Geo. III. c. 170. s. 2.) such persons may be, by magistrates, legally exonerated from the charge.

Your committee feel, that it is in the execution of this part of the law that a discriminating power has, in practice at least, been chiefly wanting ; such a discrimination as would direct voluntary benevolence in the distribution of its bounty, not excluding wholly from its care even the victims of their own vices, as in some of the numerous charitable institutions by which this kingdom is distinguished.

That such discrimination may be found practicable, your committee cannot doubt, after the experience afforded by Scotland.—The provisions of the law in England and Scotland were almost coeval with each other, and in principle nearly the same ; but the results are so different, that they must be ascribed chiefly to the different mode in which relief, from whatever fund it may have been provided, has been administered. This has arisen perhaps, in a considerable degree, from the different description of persons in whom the raising, managing, and

distributing the parochial funds is respectively vested ; the heritors and kirk session (*i. e.* the land owners and ministers and elders of the church) being selected in the one case, the churchwarden, and 4, 3, or 2 substantial householders (overseers) to be nominated yearly in the other. Instead therefore of having in this part of the kingdom, persons the most educated, enlightened, and interested in the welfare of the parish, entrusted with the administration of its affairs, we have doubtless a respectable but less enlightened class of persons appointed annually for the purpose ; and however fit for the duty, annual officers of this description may have been in the reign of Elizabeth, it is obvious that the task which now devolves upon them, is of such disproportionate magnitude as to require qualifications to be found only in well-educated persons, and a degree of knowledge and experience which is incompatible with an annual appointment, together with a sacrifice of time which it is unreasonable to expect, when it is inconsistent with the attention due from such persons to their own affairs ; and though your committee feel that no enactments can secure a correct judgment and discrimination in the execution of any law, yet they think it not difficult to correct so much of the evil as results from the office being annual, and its duties without remuneration. With this view, therefore, they think it expedient, to enable every parish or township, maintaining their own poor, at any legal meeting called for that purpose, to appoint an officer or officers, with such salary as they shall

* Dissertation on the Poor Laws, by the Rev. Joseph Townsend. Written in 1786, and re-published in 1817.

shall think fit, to assist the overseers in the execution of their duty, and that two or more parishes or townships might unite for the appointment of such officer, and apply such proportion of their respective rates for the payment of his salary, as shall be agreed upon between them. Such an officer properly selected and remunerated, may be expected so to devote his time and attention to his duty, as to make himself fully acquainted with the character and circumstances of each applicant.

In recommending such an arrangement, your committee proceed on grounds of experience rather than theory, the practice having been long beneficially adopted in many populous parishes, either under a provision in local acts, or with the unanimous consent of the parishioners. And it would be sufficient strongly to recommend such a practice, if it were not necessary to legalize the payment of the salary; for, according to the present law, the objection of an individual, however unreasonable, may control, in this respect, the wishes of the rest of the parish. Your committee are also of opinion, that it might in many cases tend to an improved management in parishes, where no such officer with a salary might be appointed, if the present law was so far altered as to admit of any individual rated to a parish, being eligible to fill the office of overseer in such parish, although not actually residing therein, provided the place of his habitual residence should not be distant more than three miles from the church of such parish. It is not, however, proposed to make such an

appointment of an overseer with a salary, compulsory, because in many small parishes it may be unnecessary; and your committee take this opportunity of observing, that they have felt it their duty in other instances to recommend enabling rather than compulsory provisions, from the obvious consideration, that the most judicious measures cannot be equally adapted to the town and country, to an agricultural and manufacturing population.

Having thus attempted to correct the defective execution, arising from the duration of the office of overseer being only annual, your committee are of opinion, that the relief and maintenance of the poor might be better administered if more important assistance could be required from the vestry of each parish, than is usually derived from that quarter. The legislature has indeed contemplated their interference, but having left it to the body at large, which is not perhaps in populous parishes very conveniently constituted for that purpose, their interposition has in many places been discontinued. Your committee think it expedient, therefore, to enable parishes, either singly or in union with others, to establish select vestries, for the purpose of managing the parochial concerns; and that such select vestries should be annually chosen at a general vestry, and should consist of the minister, or, in his absence, the resident curate (being assessed to the poor rate); the churchwardens, overseers, and as many other substantial householders, not exceeding a limited number, as the majority of such general vestry shall think proper

to elect; provided that the amount of the property for which such majority shall be assessed to the poor rate, shall be equal to at least two-third parts of the property for which the whole of the persons attending such general vestry are assessed; and the appointment of such select vestry should be made under the hands and seals of two justices of the peace, in the same manner as the appointment of overseers of the poor has heretofore been made; that such select vestry should meet once in each fortnight, or oftener if necessary, and at such meeting should examine into the state of the poor, determine upon the nature and quantity of relief required, superintend the collection and administration of all funds arising in and belonging to such parishes, as well as the execution of all laws relating to the poor, and which have been heretofore executed by the overseer; and in all cases relative to the poor, except in those of urgent necessity, the interference of justices of the peace, acting in that capacity, shall not be admitted, either directly or indirectly, until reference has been made to such select vestry; but that in cases of extreme necessity the overseers of the poor shall have the power to furnish temporary relief, or to take such other steps as the urgency of the case may require; and in all such urgent cases in which the overseers of the poor shall have refused or neglected to take cognizance thereof, any justice of the peace acting for the division should, upon complaint, to be verified by oath, inquire into such case; and if he shall find matter which he shall deem of

sufficient importance to call for the immediate consideration of the select vestry, he shall have power to require such select vestry to assemble forthwith, and to take such case into consideration; and if such select vestry shall refuse or neglect so to assemble and to consider such case, such magistrate should then have power to make such an order as he would have been empowered to make, had the case been previously considered and determined upon by the select vestry; and where the parties shall not be satisfied with the decisions of such select vestry, they should have a right to apply to two or more justices of the peace, in petty sessions assembled, who, upon the complaint being verified by oath, shall have power to summon the overseers to inquire into and decide upon the merits of the case, and to make such order as they may think proper, stating the grounds upon which they make their adjudication; and in all parishes in which the select vestry shall be established, general vestries shall in future be held within one week after Easter, and within one week after Michaelmas, in each year, for the purpose of consulting and determining upon parochial matters; before which general vestries, shall be laid for consideration and approval, the proceedings and accounts of such select vestry, according to the practice of Scotland. It might also be expedient that the accounts of the parish should be kept in a prescribed form.

In such a body, acquainted as they must be with the situation, character, and habits, of the applicants, might well be vested that

that discretion which is so much wanted to discriminate between the claims of the idle and industrious ; and their decisions may, it is hoped, supersede the necessity of those appeals to the magistrates, which have been so numerous as to preclude frequently that attention being given to each particular case, which it might otherwise have received, and perhaps suggested the adoption of that scale of relief, which has been applied indiscriminately to those whose earnings, so measured, were found insufficient for their maintenance.

The frequent application to magistrates originated, perhaps, in a proviso of the 3d and 4th of William and Mary, c. 11, that no persons, but those registered in a book directed to be kept in each parish, should "receive collection," but by the authority of a justice or the justices in sessions. If any neglect therefore occurred in keeping such register, recourse would naturally and properly be had to the justices ; but without such neglect, a probability was afforded of procuring from the justices that which was refused by the parish officer, insomuch that it should seem from the 9th Geo. I. c. 7, that it had become necessary to check such applications ; for it recites, "that many persons have applied to some justice of the peace without the knowledge of any officers of the parish, and thereby upon untrue suggestions, and sometimes upon false and frivolous pretences, have obtained relief." It therefore provided that no poor person should be relieved till oath made of a reasonable cause for such relief, and that ap-

plication had been made in vain to the parish ; and the justice is ordered to summon two of the overseers, to show cause why such relief should not be given. But under this statute every person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the overseer, of course applies to the justice, to whom his wants and habits must generally be less known ; and in default of the attendance of the officers, which, constituted as the office of overseer is, frequently happens, either from the distance of the magistrate, or from the pressure of other business, an order or recommendation is given on the statement of the applicant. This preventive provision of the 9th Geo. I. appearing therefore to have wholly failed, it is hoped that the intervention of such a select vestry would be more effectual, especially if they were aided by the establishment of the parochial benefit fund, which would afford, after some time, the surest criterion of the industry and providence of each parishioner.

The efficacy however of this as well as of any other expedient which can be suggested, must depend upon some of those who are most interested in the welfare of a parish, taking an active share in the administration of its concerns. Without this, the committee are convinced no benefit will be derived from any amendment that can be made in the details of the system ; and with it, even under the existing law, much may be effected, as it has been, both in single and in incorporated parishes, where such superintendence prevails ; and they think no means are so likely to lead to this desirable

desirable practice, as giving to such a part of the vestry as may bear some analogy to the heritors and kirk session of Scotland, a practical and efficient discriminating power in granting relief, still leaving an appeal to the petty sessions open, if the judgment of such a body should be thought erroneous. The heritors and kirk session continue to perform the duty of adjusting the list of the poor; and though, by 3 and 4 W. III. c. 11, the same duty has been enjoined upon the parishioners generally, and none but those in such list are permitted to a share of the assessment, except by order of a justice, your committee believe that this provision has been so generally neglected, as to be almost forgotten.

One of the cases in which such a discriminating power may be exercised with the greatest justice, occurs not unfrequently where the party is in present want, from having squandered away earnings that would have afforded ample means for the support of a family; in such instances, in conformity with this principle, it might be expedient that there should be a power to advance such sums as may be necessary for the immediate support of the family, by way of loan only, to be repaid by instalments, according to the discretion of the select vestry or magistrates; such a practice would at least be attended with the advantage of securing inquiry and discrimination. The application of the same principle to the wants of persons who are in the receipt of allowances from Chelsea and Greenwich hospitals, leads the committee to think it expedient to

recommend, that, where any person entitled to a pension or other allowance from Chelsea or Greenwich hospital, shall apply for parish relief, the parish officers may require, and any magistrate may authorise and direct the assignment of such pension or allowance for the reimbursement of the parish, such assignment to be made in a short form to be prescribed, to be of one or more quarterly payments, as the magistrate may think fit, regard being had to the amount of the relief ordered. The parish officers should be required to give immediate notice to the revenue officer of the district who is authorised to pay such pensions, and the parish officers, or their successors, should be authorised to receive the payments when due, according to the tenor of the assignments, subject to account with the pauper before a magistrate.

And as it might contribute materially to the comfort of the persons entitled to such allowances, and tend to prevent the necessity for such applications on their part for relief, if they were enabled to receive the sums due to them weekly instead of quarterly, it is recommended that authority should be given by law to any person entitled to a pension or other provision from Chelsea or Greenwich hospital, to assign such pension to the overseer of the parish in which he may reside, and to provide that upon such assignment being made with the approbation of a magistrate, and registered at Greenwich or Chelsea, it shall be lawful for the overseer to pay to such person out of the poor rates a weekly allowance

ance corresponding to the rate of such pension; and the directors and governors of Chelsea and Greenwich respectively should direct the quarterly issue of any pension so assigned to be paid to such overseer, in reimbursement of the weekly advance, under proper regulations to be made for that purpose. In the one case, the parish will be reimbursed the sums advanced, as in justice it ought to be; and in the other, the temptation to extravagance being removed, the want perhaps will not be created.

Having thus considered the description of persons to be relieved, either by employment or pecuniary assistance, it remains to your committee to direct the attention of the House to the place in which such persons were respectively to be so relieved or set to work, embracing what is termed the Law of Settlement; which, if not the most important branch of the subject in other respects, yet, as it affects the comforts, the happiness, and even the liberty of the great mass of our population, is of the highest interest.

From the reign of Richard II. impotent beggars were directed to repair to the place of their birth; afterwards, to the place where they had last dwelled or were best known, or were born, or had "made last their abode by the space of three years." And such continued to be the law at that period, when funds for the relief of the poor were first raised by a compulsory assessment; a provision which rendered it still more important to define correctly, what persons were locally entitled to partake of this local

fund; and the 14th Eliz. consequently authorised the removal of persons "to the place where they were born, or most conversant for the space of three years next before." And this enactment appears to have remained unaltered by any act of the legislature, except in the case of rogues and vagabonds, who were to be sent to their last dwelling, if they had any; if not, to the place where they last dwelt by the space of one year; though decisions of the courts of law seem to have considered a month's abode, or a residence of forty days, in some cases sufficient to gain a settlement. The doubts which, however, existed on this subject, were removed by 13 and 14 Car. II. c. 12, which established a new system, imposing a restraint on the circulation of labour, essentially affecting the domestic comforts and happiness of the poor, and giving rise to various subsequent provisions, which have become the fruitful source of litigation.

The statute enacts, that, "whereas by reason of some defects in the law, poor people are not restrained from going from one parish to another, and therefore do endeavour to settle themselves in those parishes where there is the best stock, the largest commons or wastes to build cottages, and the most woods for them to burn and destroy; and when they have consumed it, then to another parish, and at last become rogues and vagabonds, to the great discouragement of parishes to provide stock, when it is liable to be devoured by strangers: Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid,

said, That it shall and may be lawful, upon complaint made by the church-wardens or overseers of the poor of any parish, to any justice of the peace, within forty days after any such person or persons coming to settle, as aforesaid, in any tenement under the yearly value of 10*l.* for any two justices of the peace, whereof one to be of the quorum, at the division where any person or persons that are likely to be chargeable to the parish shall come to inhabit, by their warrant to remove and convey such person or persons to such parish where he or they were last legally settled, either as a native householder, sojourner, apprentice or servant, for the space of forty days at the least, unless he or they give sufficient security for the discharge of the said parish, to be allowed of by the said justices."

But as a settlement would be thus gained by forty days residence, and that residence might not be matter of notoriety, when such a natural inducement would exist to conceal it, by a subsequent act the forty days residence is to be reckoned, not from the day of the person coming to inhabit, but from the time at which he gives a notice in writing to one of the parish officers of his abode, and the number of his family. But even this precaution against a clandestine residence was not enough to prevent such notice being defeated by the inattention and misconduct of the officers; and it was therefore further provided, that such notice should be published in the church and registered; it was felt necessary, however, to provide that the following persons should

be deemed to have a legal settlement in the parish, though no such notice in writing be delivered or published:

1st. Any person executing a public annual office in the parish, or paying parish taxes.

2d. Any unmarried person, without child or children, hired for one year.

3d. Any person bound an apprentice by indenture.

Notwithstanding these exceptions, the mischief of making the labouring classes thus stationary appears to have been soon felt, and the expedient was adopted of granting certificates by the major part of the parish officers, and allowed by two justices, acknowledging the persons removing to belong to their parish, undertaking to provide for them whenever they may be forced to ask relief of the parish to which such certificate is brought; in that case they were irremovable till actually chargeable; but in that event they might be conveyed to their place of settlement. By these means, it was hoped, that those who were in want of work in one parish might be enabled to seek it in another, notwithstanding the provisions of the 13th and 14th, C. II. which restrained them from carrying their labour to the best market.

By a subsequent act, care was taken that no settlement should be gained by a residence under such certificate, unless the party took a lease of a tenement of the annual value of 10*l.* or executed some annual office, being legally placed therein. And by the 12th Anne, c. 18, an apprentice or a hired servant to a certificated person, could not by virtue of the apprenticeship,

ticeship, or hiring and service, gain any settlement in such parish. Another act was passed to ensure the regular execution of such certificate, by the attestation of witnesses, and again for the more certain reimbursement by the certifying parish, of the expenses attendant on the removal of the certificated person. After all, it was solemnly decided, that the granting these certificates was quite discretionary, both with regard to the parish officers and the magistrates. And such continued to be the only means by which this restraint on the free circulation of labour could be avoided, till in the thirty-fifth year of the present reign, the privilege of persons not being removed till actually chargeable, which had been recently conferred on members of friendly societies, was extended by a law which deserves perhaps more notice and applause than it has received, and the liberty of removing from place to place was made no longer to depend upon the will and judgment either of parish officers or magistrates, but the removal of poor persons was prevented till they were actually chargeable.

No material alteration has been made in the law of settlement since this act; and the result of the various enactments on this subject now is, that every poor person, when entitled to parochial relief, can claim it only (except in cases of sudden accident or calamity) in that parish in which he has resided during forty days, either on an estate of his own, if purchased, of the value of 30*l.* or in a tenement rented by him of the annual value of 10*l.* or under in-

dentures of apprenticeship, or having served a year under a yearly hiring, as an unmarried man, without a child, or by executing a public annual office during the year. If a settlement has been acquired by neither of these means, the father's settlement becomes that of his issue; if that be unknown, the mother's; and if that also should not be ascertained, recourse must be had to the place of birth, which is also (with certain exceptions) the place of settlement of illegitimate children, till they have acquired another by one of the modes described by the statute above enumerated. Persons not born within the kingdom, and who have acquired no settlement by either of the above means, are by the humane interpretation of the law to be relieved, in case of necessity, in the parish in which they are found.

These various provisions have given rise to a course of expensive and embarrassing litigation, of which a very inadequate measure would be formed by reference to the cases, numerous as they are, which have been reported in the superior court; for supposing all that have been there decided to have been reported, still they are decisions of such questions of law only as seemed doubtful to the magistrates and courts below, exclusive of the infinitely greater number of questions of fact, on which it is the peculiar province of the justices alone to decide, either in the first instance, or by way of appeal; and it may perhaps be added, that on no branch of the law have the judgments of the superior court been so contradictory. A better judgment may perhaps

perhaps be formed by a reference to the sums expended in litigation, and the removal of paupers at different periods. These sums amounted in 1776, to 35,072*l.*; in 1786, to 35,791*l.*; in 1803, 190,072*l.*; in 1815, 287,000*l.* And it appears that the appeals against orders of removal, entered at the four last quarter sessions, amount to about 4,700*l.* Great however as the inconvenience confessedly is of this constant and increasing litigation, there are still other effects of the law of settlement, which it is yet more important to correct; such are the frauds so frequently committed by those who are intrusted to prevent even the probability of a burthen being brought on their parish; and such are the measures, justifiable undoubtedly in point of law, which are adopted very generally in many parts of the kingdom, to defeat the obtaining a settlement: the most common of these latter practices is that of hiring labourers for a less period than a year; from whence it naturally and necessarily follows, that a labourer may spend the season of his health and industry in one parish, and be transferred in the decline of life to a distant part of the kingdom. If the means cannot be found of wholly removing both the mischief of litigation, and the hardship that in particular and not unfrequent instances attends the operation of this part of the law, still the committee hope much may be done to mitigate both. The entire abrogation of the law of settlement has indeed been suggested, and the suggestion has generally been accompanied with a proposal to maintain the poor from a national

fund, in order to relieve particular places from the pressure which might in that case arise from an accumulated number of paupers. But believing (for reasons which have been stated in a former part of this Report, to which it more properly belongs,) that transferring these funds from parishes to the government, would be on various grounds in the highest degree inexpedient, the committee cannot but feel, that as long as a provision for the poor is raised by compulsory parochial assessments, some means must continue to exist of assigning them to their respective parochial limits; and they are satisfied, that something short of a total repeal of the law of settlement, yet going further than all the various minor alterations which have been suggested from different parts of the kingdom, would simplify the law so much, as to reduce the subject of litigation to a very few questions of fact, place the maintenance of those who want relief upon a far more just and equitable footing, and at the same time consult in the greatest degree the comfort and happiness of the poor themselves. With these views, your committee recommend, that in future any person residing three years in a parish, without being absent more than — months in each year, and without being in any manner chargeable, should obtain a settlement in such parish; and to prevent as far as possible this fact becoming the source of such litigation as frequently arises, from the difficulty of ascertaining the most simple facts, by the evidence of the paupers themselves, it might be permitted that after such

such residence was completed, a deposition of the fact might be made by the party before two justices, after notice given to the overseers. Your committee are persuaded, that if service was required to be combined with residence, it would not only render the provision complicated, but would prevent a settlement being acquired within either of the parishes in which the person serves or resides. And it is recommended, that no person, from a day to be named, shall acquire a settlement, by renting a tenement, serving an office, hiring and service for a year, apprenticeship or estate. With respect to such poor persons who, not being natives of England, may be without a settlement, the influx of them to particular places has been so great and oppressive, that the committee think provision should be made for passing such persons, upon their application for parochial relief, to the nearest ports or places, from which they may return to their native country; but that any native of the British Empire shall acquire a settlement in any parish in which he may have resided five years without being chargeable.

It is not to be supposed that such an abrogation in future of the 13th and 14th Car. II. and all that has been built upon that statute, can be wholly exempt from inconvenience: but the only objection that has appeared entitled to serious consideration, is founded on an apprehension that it might tend to the reduction of the number of cottages, a consequence which would be undoubtedly much to be lamented; but the inconvenience of driving labourers to a

distance from the farms which they cultivate, would tend, it is hoped, to counteract the evil; for it is chiefly from motives of this sort, that such tenements are in many instances at present upheld. It will, however, be for the House to consider whether the advantages resulting from such a change are not calculated to counterbalance this, which the committee deem the only substantial objection to the alteration; recollecting always, that inconveniences must be inseparable from such a compulsory provision for the poor, as exists in this part of the United Kingdom alone.

Your committee, however, may cite, in support of their opinion, the authority of the accurate and judicious author of the History of the Poor Laws, who says, "It must be owned, the statute of the 13th and 14th Car. II. hath exceeded, perhaps, the due bounds. If alterations should be thought requisite, it is submitted, whether it might not be reasonable to reduce the settlement to where it was before that statute, to wit, to the place of birth, or of inhabitancy for one or more years. For so long as this was the plain simple settlement, there were very few disputes in the courts of law about settlements. It was the easy method of obtaining a settlement by residency of forty days, that brought parishes into a state of war against the poor, and against one another; and caused the subsequent restrictive statutes to be made; all which would fall, of course, by reducing the settlement to its ancient (and indeed most natural) standard."

To state the advantages attending

ing the alteration fairly, it is necessary to direct the attention of the House to the sort of questions which arise out of each of the heads of settlement proposed to be abrogated.

In the case, for instance, of a settlement being supposed to be acquired by renting a tenement of the annual value of 10*l.* the question in dispute generally respects the value. If it may be really not far from that sum, and the family of the pauper be numerous, the interests of the contending parishes, supported by the conflicting opinion of their respective surveyors, leads to the utmost expense and extremity of litigation.

But this question of fact has not been the only subject of dispute. The kind of tenement, and the nature of the tenure, will be found, by a reference to the reports of the King's Bench, to have given rise to the most difficult and numerous questions; the same reference will afford a still greater variety of intricate questions, and of conflicting decisions, respecting hiring and service; as to who may be hired as servants; what the contract of hiring, whether general, special, customary, retrospective, conditional, personal; hiring' service in different places, with different masters; of marriage during the service; and absence from service.

The settlement by serving an apprenticeship has also its various decisions, arising out of the nature of the binding, the time of the service, the place of the service, the discharging the indentures, and the service with different masters, the execution of indentures, and stamps. The last head of

settlement by estate, it is obvious, besides the question of value, which, in case of purchase, must amount *bonâ fide* to 30*l.* involves necessarily some of the most intricate questions respecting real property and testamentary bequests and devises. The committee are persuaded they need do no more than refer to these several heads of litigation to shew its extent; and that minor alterations in any of these, while each head of settlement is retained, would only lead to new questions. It has, for instance, been suggested, that the rent of the tenement should be substituted for its value; but the question would then be shifted, and every agreement for a rent a little above or a little below 10*l.* would be impugned as collusive. Raising the sum from 10*l.* to 20*l.* has been also suggested, and would have its advantages by diminishing litigation; but it would at the same time increase the difficulty of changing a settlement, and, consequently, of permitting skill and labour to find its best market. It has been proposed also to the committee from various quarters, that under the head of hiring and service, a contract of hiring should be dispensed with, and service for a year confer a settlement. But your committee fear, that the same means which are now successfully adopted to prevent a settlement from being obtained under this head, would in that case operate more prejudicially to the labourer, by preventing his remaining a year in one place; at present he can do so, under successive hirings, for a shorter period. If these apprehensions are well founded, the change would be most prejudicial

dicial to him, and so impolitic in its effects, as to counteract any advantage which could be derived from such diminution of litigation. These are among the reasons for which the committee suppose that no alteration, short of that which they venture to propose, would have the effect of removing the evil of litigation incident to the present law of settlement. But it is to the labouring class of the community that they conceive this great alteration would be most beneficial. It would insure their being maintained where they had maintained themselves; where they would be more likely, if meritorious persons, to experience in case of need the kindness of real benevolence. It is hoped also that it might operate as an inducement to active and faithful service on the one hand, and on the other, to prevent such service being interrupted by an interested consideration for parochial funds. And they propose this alteration with the more confidence, because they thereby recommend the restoration of that law, which was coeval with parochial contributions, whether voluntary or compulsory; and because it is still the existing law in that part of the United Kingdom, Scotland, where the local management and maintenance of the poor has been best conducted.

There are some other suggestions of inferior importance, which have not found a place in the foregoing part of the Report, to which your committee would refer before they conclude their observations.

It appears desirable, that justices out of sessions should have the power, which they can now

only execute in sessions, of making orders of maintenance on near relations.

That a power should also be given to enable overseers to recover, by a summary process, the possession of tenements which they may have rented and used for the accommodation of the poor, without being driven to the tedious and expensive proceeding by way of ejectment.

Your committee moreover think, that the vexation and expense of removals might, in some instances, be saved, by an arrangement for postponing the execution of the order, till after a final decision in case of appeal.

It is also suggested, that the power given by the Mutiny Act (vide 56 Geo. III. cap. 10, sect. 70,) "to any justice of the peace, where any soldier shall be quartered, in case such soldier have either wife, child, or children, to examine such soldier as to the place of his last legal settlement, and which requires him to give an attested copy to such soldier, of any affidavit made by him in this respect, in order to be produced when required; and which provides that such attested copy shall be at any time admitted in evidence, as to such last legal settlement," be extended to any person confined in any gaol or place of safe custody in Great Britain, provided that such copy of the examination shall not be admitted in evidence after the discharge of such prisoner.

By the act 22 Geo. III. c. 53, it is provided, that when any application shall be made to a justice of the peace for relief, such justice shall not summon the guardian, unless

unless application shall have been first made by the applicant to the guardian, and if he refuses redress, to the visitor. In incorporated parishes, the visitor is frequently from ten to fifteen miles distant from the residence of the pauper, and frequently absent from home. Some alteration in the law appears necessary to obviate this inconvenience.

Your committee have thus stated to the House the result of a laborious investigation, which has been protracted to a period of the session which precludes their proposing at present such legislative enactments as it might be thought fit to adopt. They cannot, however, regret this circumstance; for, conceiving that the House expected at their hands a general revision of the whole system of our Poor Laws, in which, though it be not difficult to point out inconveniences and mischiefs, yet the task of providing practical remedies is so arduous that your committee is persuaded, that even more time and labour would not have been mispent in considering further the various provisions of the law, and the numerous proposals which, from different quarters, have been submitted to their judgment. The House also will not be called upon to adopt any of the suggestions of this Report, till an ample opportunity will have been afforded to correct any errors in the judgment of your committee, or to confirm their opinions: and this delay will above all be salutary, if the lapse of time, aided by a more favourable season, should restore the kingdom in some degree to its wonted and healthy state. For, though a pe-

riod of depression and distress may bring out more prominently the weak and unsound parts of the system, it is obvious that the application of the most effectual remedies is at such a moment of more than ordinary difficulty. And if it should be the pleasure of the House that the consideration of this subject should be resumed in the next session of parliament, no inconsiderable advantage will be derived from that mass of information contained in the returns in 1815, to which they have not yet had access, and from a further valuable accession of detailed accounts of the admirable practice of Scotland.

July 4, 1817.

The Committee appointed to examine the several Petitions, which have been presented to the House against the Employment of Boys in sweeping Chimneys; and who were empowered to report the same, with their Opinion and Observations thereupon, together with the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them;—having examined Evidence upon the subject, have agreed to the following Report.

Your committee have felt it their duty, in the first place, to inquire into the laws that at present regulate the trade of chimney-sweeping; and they find, that in the year 1788 an act of parliament (28 Geo. III. chap. 48.) was passed, entitled, "An Act for the better regulation of Chimney-sweepers and their Apprentices." To the preamble of which, they wish to direct the attention of the House:—Whereas the laws now in

in being, respecting masters and apprentices, do not provide sufficient regulations, so as to prevent various complicated miseries to which boys employed in climbing and cleansing of chimneys are liable, beyond any other employment whatsoever in which boys of tender years are engaged: and whereas the misery of the said boys might be much alleviated, if some legal powers and authorities were given for the regulation of chimney-sweepers and their apprentices."—This act, though it has in some respects fulfilled the intention of the legislature, yet your committee have heard in evidence before them, that its principal enacting clause, viz. the regulating the age at which apprentices shall be taken, is constantly evaded; and they are decidedly of opinion, that the various and complicated miseries to which the unfortunate children are exposed, cannot be relieved by regulations. The 28th of Geo. III. enacts, That no person shall employ any boy, in the nature of an apprentice or servant, under the age of eight years; yet your committee have been informed, that infants of the early ages of four, five and six years, have been employed, it being the practice for parents to sell their children to this trade, under-stating their age; besides, this clause is not considered by the master chimney-sweepers as prohibiting their employment of their own children; and instances have been adduced before your committee, that have satisfied them that such cases are by no means unfrequent. Your committee have also heard, from one of the master chimney-sweepers,

that it is the custom of the trade to take the parent's word for the age of the apprentice—that no other evidence is asked for—that he never heard of its being the practice of the masters to get a certificate of the age, and he was ignorant that the act of parliament required it. Your committee refer generally to the evidence for proofs of the cruelties that are practised, and of the ill-usage, and the peculiar hardships that are the lot of the wretched children who are employed in this trade. It is in evidence that they are stolen from their parents, and inveigled out of workhouses; that in order to conquer the natural repugnance of the infants to ascend the narrow and dangerous chimneys, to clean which their labour is required, blows are used; that pins are forced into their feet by the boy that follows them up the chimney, in order to compel them to ascend it; and that lighted straw has been applied for that purpose; that the children are subject to sores and bruises, and wounds and burns on their thighs, knees, and elbows; and that it will require many months before the extremities of the elbows and knees become sufficiently hard to resist the excoriations to which they are at first subject; and that one of the masters being asked if those boys are employed in sweeping chimneys during the soreness of those parts, he answered, "It depends upon the sort of master they have got. Some are obliged to put them to work sooner than others; you must keep them a little at it even during the sores, or they will never learn their business." Your committee are informed

informed that the deformity of the spine, legs, arms, &c. of these boys, proceeds generally, if not wholly, from the circumstance of their being obliged to ascend chimneys at an age when their bones are in a soft and growing state; but likewise, by their being compelled to carry bags of soot and cloths, the weight of which sometimes exceed twenty or thirty pounds, not including the soot, the burthen of which they also occasionally bear for a great length of distance and time; the knees and ancle joints become deformed, in the first instance, from the position they are obliged to put them in, in order to support themselves, not only while climbing up the chimney, but more particularly so whilst coming down, when they rest solely on the lower extremities, the arms being used for scraping and sweeping down the soot. Your committee refer generally to the observation of every one as to the stunted growth, the deformed state of body, the look of wretchedness and disease which characterizes this unfortunate class; but it is in evidence before them, that there is a formidable complaint which chimney-sweepers in particular are liable to; from which circumstance, by way of distinction, it is called the Chimney-sweeper's Cancer. Mr. Wright, a surgeon, informed your committee, that whilst he was attending Guy's and Saint Bartholomew's Hospitals, he had several cases under his care, some of which were operated on; but in general they are apt to let them go too far before they apply for relief. Cancers of the lips are not so general as cancers of the scro-

tum; the witness never saw but two instances of the former, though several of the latter. Mr. Cline informed your committee by letter, that this disease is rarely seen in any other persons than chimney-sweepers, and in them cannot be considered as frequent; for during his practice in St. Thomas's Hospital, for more than forty years, the number of those cases could not exceed twenty; but your committee have been informed, that the dread of the operation which it is necessary to perform, deters many from submitting to it; and from the evidence of persons engaged in the trade, it appears to be much more common than Mr. Cline seems to be aware of. But it is not only the early and hard labour, the spare diet, wretched lodging, and harsh treatment, which is the lot of these children, but in general they are kept almost entirely destitute of education, and moral or religious instruction; they form a sort of class by themselves, and from their work being done early in the day, they are turned into the streets to pass their time in idleness and depravity: thus they become an easy prey to those whose occupation it is to delude the ignorant and entrap the unwary; and if their constitution is strong enough to resist the diseases and deformities which are the consequences of their trade, and that they should grow so much in stature as no longer to be useful in it, they are cast upon the world without any means of obtaining a livelihood, with no habits of industry, or rather, what too frequently happens, with confirmed habits of idleness and vice.

In

In addition to which, it appears, that from the trade being constantly overstocked, a large proportion of the older chimney sweepers (as it is stated, one half) are constantly in a course of being thrown out of employ. Your committee have endeavoured to learn the number of persons who may be considered as engaged in the trade within the bills of mortality: they have learnt that the total number of master chimney sweepers might be estimated at 200, who had among them 500 apprentices; that not above 20 of those masters were reputable tradesmen in easy circumstances, who appeared generally to conform to the provisions of the act, and which twenty had, upon an average, from four to five apprentices each; that about ninety were of an inferior class of master chimney-sweepers, who had, upon an average, three apprentices each, and who were extremely negligent of their health, their morals, and their education; and that about ninety, the remainder of the 200 masters, were a class of chimney-sweepers recently journeymen, who took up the trade because they had no other resource—who picked up boys as they could—who lodged them with themselves in huts, sheds, and cellars, in the outskirts of the town, occasionally wandering into the villages round: and that in these two classes, being in the proportion of 180 to 20, the miseries of the trade were principally to be found. It is in evidence before your committee, that at Hadleigh, Barnet, Uxbridge, and Windsor, female children have been employed.

Your committee observe, that

in general among the most respectable part of the trade, the apprentices are of the age prescribed by the act, viz. from 8 to 14; but even among the most respectable it is the constant practice to borrow the younger boys from one another, for the purpose of sweeping what are called the narrow flues. No accurate account could be obtained of the ages of the apprentices of the other classes; but they had the youngest children, who either were their own, or engaged as apprentices; and who, in many instances, it was ascertained, were much below the prescribed age; thus, the youngest and most delicate children are in the service of the worst class of masters, and employed exclusively to clean flues, which, from their peculiar construction, cannot be swept without great personal hazard.

Your committee have had laid before them an account of various accidents that have happened to chimney-sweepers, by being forced to ascend these small flues. They beg leave to refer particularly to a recent case, which occurred on Thursday the 6th day of March 1817, and which is contained in the minutes of evidence. They wish also to direct the attention of the House to one of those instances of cruelty, which terminated in the death of an infant of about six years of age, in the month of April 1816: William Moles and Sarah his wife were tried at the Old Bailey for the wilful murder of John Hewley alias Haseley, by cruelly beating him. Under the direction of the learned judge, they were acquitted of the crime of murder, but the husband

was detained to take his trial for a misdemeanor, of which he was convicted upon the fullest evidence, and sentenced to two years imprisonment. The facts of the case were, that this infant was forced up the chimney on the shoulder of a larger boy, and afterwards violently pulled down again by the leg, and dashed against a marble hearth; his leg was thus broken, and he died a few hours after; on his body and knees were found sores, arising from wounds of a much older date. But it is not only the ill-treatment which the regular apprentices suffer from the cruel conduct of some masters that your committee are anxious to comment on; it appears that in order to evade the penalty of the act of parliament, some of these masters frequently hire young lads as journeymen who have not been apprenticed to chimney-sweepers; these are children who have no parents, and who are enticed away from the different workhouses of the Metropolis.

Having thus shortly detailed the leading facts of the evidence which has been given before them, of the miseries which the unfortunate class of beings who are sold to this trade experience, your committee have with great anxiety examined various persons, as to the possibility of performing by the aid of machinery what is now done by the labour of the climbing boys: the result of their inquiries is, that though there may be some difference of opinion as to the extent to which machinery is here applicable, yet the lowest calculation of practical and experienced persons, master chimney-sweepers

themselves, who have been brought up in the trade, establishes the fact, that of the chimneys in the metropolis three-fourths may be as well, as cleanly, and as cheaply swept by mechanical means as by the present method; and the remaining part being, on the very greatest calculation, one-fourth of the whole number, with alterations that may easily and cheaply be made, can be swept also without the employment of the climbing boy. Mr. Bevens, an architect much conversant with buildings in the Metropolis, has no doubt that 95 out of 100 can be swept by the machines that are at present in use; and he has also no doubt that, supposing there was to be a legislative enactment that no chimney should be swept by the means of climbing boys, that easy substitutes could be found that would sweep every chimney that now exists. He adds, that though there may be difficulties in cleaning an horizontal flue, from the quantity of soot, yet it is equally bad for the boys as for the machine; because the boy, as he comes down, has an accumulation of soot about him, which stops up the circulation of air necessary to support life. So that it is evident, in all those chimneys where, under their present construction, the machine cannot be used, the hazard of loss of life to the boy who sweeps them, is most imminent.

Some of these flues are stated not to be above seven inches square; and one of the witnesses, who relates this fact to the Committee, informs them, that he himself had been often in hazard of his life; and that he has frequently swept
a long

a long narrow flue in Goldsmith's Hall, in which he was shut up six hours before his work was finished. Upon a review then of the evidence of the evils necessarily belonging to this trade, as well as of the remedies which have been suggested, First, in the substitution of mechanical means, thus superseding the necessity of employing children in this painful and degrading trade; and, secondly, in allowing the system to continue in the main as it is, with only those amendments to the existing law, that may attempt to remedy the present practice;—your Committee are decidedly of opinion, that no parliamentary regulations can attain this desirable end; that as long as master chimney-sweepers are permitted to employ climbing boys, the natural result of that permission will be the continuance of those miseries which the legislature has sought, but which it has failed to put an end to; they therefore recommend, that the use of climbing boys should be prohibited altogether; and that the age at which the apprenticeship should commence should be extended from eight to fourteen, putting this trade upon the same footing as others which take apprentices at that age; and, finally, your committee have come to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Chairman be directed to move for leave to bring in a bill for preventing the further use of climbing boys in sweeping of chimneys.

23d June, 1817.

FIRST REPORT FROM THE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The Select Committee appointed to inquire into, and state, the income and expenditure of the United Kingdom, for the year ended the 5th of January, 1817; and also to consider and state the probable income and expenditure, (so far as the same can now be estimated) for the years ending the 5th of January, 1818, and the 5th of January, 1819, respectively; and to report the same, together with their observations thereupon, from time to time, to the House, and also to consider what further measures may be adopted for the relief of the country from any part of the said expenditure, without detriment to the public interest;

Having had under their consideration the state of various offices in the United Kingdom, which are commonly, though incorrectly, known under the general denomination of sinecures, conceive that they cannot better discharge the duty imposed upon them by the latter part of the order of reference, than by bringing under the early notice of the House, the annual charge incurred by the continuance of offices, either wholly useless, or the salaries of which appear disproportionate to their actual duties; and of the system, which they submit, as fit to be substituted in their stead.

The subject is by no means new to the house, having been brought under discussion at various times within the last ten years, and particularly in the session of 1812, when it was made the foundation

of a bill, which having passed the House, was carried to the House of Lords on the 17th of June, and in the session of 1813, when the same bill was carried to the House of Lords on the 5th of April.

The classification of the several offices, and some of the provisions of that bill, are followed and referred to in the course of this report, as the most convenient mode of conducting the inquiry relating to them.

The object of your committee was to ascertain, first, what offices may be reduced or regulated (after the expiration of the existing interests) without detriment to the public service. Secondly, under what regulations such of those offices as it may be deemed proper to continue ought to be administered after the expiration of the existing interests. Thirdly, as it is obvious, that whenever such regulations and reductions as are contemplated by your committee shall be carried into effect, the means of rewarding meritorious public service will be in great measure taken from the Crown, your committee deem it indispensable that provision should be made for enabling the Crown, under proper regulations and restrictions, to afford a reasonable recompense for the faithful discharge of high and effective civil offices.

OFFICES IN ENGLAND.

The view which your committee have taken of the two offices of Chief Justice in Eyre, North and South of Trent, is, that they may be abolished without detriment to the public service, and the emoluments thereof become a future saving to the public; regard be-

ing had in these, as well as in every other office which forms the subject of this report, to the existing interests.

In the Exchequer, reasons of a like nature exist for dealing in the same manner with the offices of

Auditor of the Exchequer,

Clerk of the Pells,

Four Tellers of the Exchequer; so that, whenever vacancies shall occur in any of them, the salary payable to the principal in such office shall cease, and become a saving to the public.

Warden of the Cinque Ports,

Governor of the Isle of Wight:

The same rule applies to these two offices, so that the salaries payable at the Exchequer, or out of any public funds, may cease, and become a future saving to the public.

Commissary General of Musters.

—This office may be abolished without inconvenience to the public service.

Joint Paymaster-General.—The office of one of the Joint Paymasters may also be abolished, being wholly inefficient and useless, with regard to all business connected with the army; but it must be recollected, that an effective and very important situation, without salary, has been frequently held, and is now held, by one of the Joint Paymasters; for the discharge of which your committee do not consider the salary of 2,000*l.* at present attached to the office of second paymaster, as more than adequate; but they submit to the House, that it will be more consistent with the system which they wish to introduce, that the Vice-President of the Board of Trade should receive a salary as such,

such, than be paid indirectly as one of the Joint Paymasters-General.

One Deputy Paymaster-General.—The office of Paymaster-General being recommended to be executed by one person, it follows, of course, that one deputy in the office will be sufficient; and that the salary now received by the second deputy should be saved.

There are no longer any Deputy-Paymasters abroad acting by deputy; and the duties of all the Deputy-Paymasters themselves, during peace, are transferred to the commissariat.

The office of Paymaster of Marines is now discharged in person, under regulations adopted in 1813, without any deputy allowed, or paid by the public; but as some further inquiries may be necessary before your committee can finally report upon it, they defer their observations until the estimates for the Navy shall come before them, with which this office is immediately connected.

Upon the office of Paymaster of Widows' Pensions, although no strong objections occur to your committee against uniting it with the foregoing office, yet so long as it continues at the low scale of expense at which it is now fixed, it does not seem expedient to recommend any alteration for the purpose of effecting a saving, which would, if any, be very inconsiderable. The annual charge is no more than 680*l.* and ample security is taken, amounting to 20,000*l.* for the money in charge, and for the punctual payment of nearly 70,000*l.* in very small sums, to 2,200 widows, scattered over every part of the United King-

dom, and many of them resident abroad. It must be further observed, that though the salary of this office, having been formerly paid out of the produce of old stores, is now annually voted in the naval estimates, yet the appointment is not vested in the Crown, but in the governors of this charity.

Law Clerk in the Secretary of State's Office.—It appearing that no duties whatever are annexed to this office, your committee recommend that it should be altogether abolished.

Collector and Transmitter of State Papers.—The same observation applies as to the last office.

The inconsiderable offices of Principal Housekeeper and Warehousekeeper in the Excise Office, Established Messenger in the War Office, and some others, included in the table of the bill of 1812 and 1813, were at that time held as sinecures: with regard to these, it is sufficient to lay down as a rule, that no person in future should be allowed to hold any inferior office of this description, without performing the duty in person; and where no duty is attached (as in the case of Cartaker to his Majesty) all such nominal offices should be suppressed.

The offices of Joint Postmaster-General in England and Ireland do not appear to your committee to come under the general description of those which form the subject of this report. They are, therefore, not prepared at present to suggest to the House any alteration in this mode of conducting this important department of the public service. If, on the one hand,

ing the alteration fairly, it is necessary to direct the attention of the House to the sort of questions which arise out of each of the heads of settlement proposed to be abrogated.

In the case, for instance, of a settlement being supposed to be acquired by renting a tenement of the annual value of 10*l.* the question in dispute generally respects the value. If it may be really not far from that sum, and the family of the pauper be numerous, the interests of the contending parishes, supported by the conflicting opinion of their respective surveyors, leads to the utmost expense and extremity of litigation.

But this question of fact has not been the only subject of dispute. The kind of tenement, and the nature of the tenure, will be found, by a reference to the reports of the King's Bench, to have given rise to the most difficult and numerous questions; the same reference will afford a still greater variety of intricate questions, and of conflicting decisions, respecting hiring and service; as to who may be hired as servants; what the contract of hiring, whether general, special, customary, retrospective, conditional, personal; hiring' service in different places, with different masters; of marriage during the service; and absence from service.

The settlement by serving an apprenticeship has also its various decisions, arising out of the nature of the binding, the time of the service, the place of the service, the discharging the indentures, and the service with different masters, the execution of indentures, and stamps. The last head of

settlement by estate, it is obvious, besides the question of value, which, in case of purchase, must amount *bonâ fide* to 30*l.* involves necessarily some of the most intricate questions respecting real property and testamentary bequests and devises. The committee are persuaded they need do no more than refer to these several heads of litigation to shew its extent; and that minor alterations in any of these, while each head of settlement is retained, would only lead to new questions. It has, for instance, been suggested, that the rent of the tenement should be substituted for its value; but the question would then be shifted, and every agreement for a rent a little above or a little below 10*l.* would be impugned as collusive. Raising the sum from 10*l.* to 20*l.* has been also suggested, and would have its advantages by diminishing litigation; but it would at the same time increase the difficulty of changing a settlement, and, consequently, of permitting skill and labour to find its best market. It has been proposed also to the committee from various quarters, that under the head of hiring and service, a contract of hiring should be dispensed with, and service for a year confer a settlement. But your committee fear, that the same means which are now successfully adopted to prevent a settlement from being obtained under this head, would in that case operate more prejudicially to the labourer, by preventing his remaining a year in one place; at present he can do so, under successive hirings, for a shorter period. If these apprehensions are well founded, the change would be most prejudicial

dicial to him, and so impolitic in its effects, as to counteract any advantage which could be derived from such diminution of litigation. These are among the reasons for which the committee suppose that no alteration, short of that which they venture to propose, would have the effect of removing the evil of litigation incident to the present law of settlement. But it is to the labouring class of the community that they conceive this great alteration would be most beneficial. It would insure their being maintained where they had maintained themselves; where they would be more likely, if meritorious persons, to experience in case of need the kindness of real benevolence. It is hoped also that it might operate as an inducement to active and faithful service on the one hand, and on the other, to prevent such service being interrupted by an interested consideration for parochial funds. And they propose this alteration with the more confidence, because they thereby recommend the restoration of that law, which was coeval with parochial contributions, whether voluntary or compulsory; and because it is still the existing law in that part of the United Kingdom, Scotland, where the local management and maintenance of the poor has been best conducted.

There are some other suggestions of inferior importance, which have not found a place in the foregoing part of the Report, to which your committee would refer before they conclude their observations.

It appears desirable, that justices out of sessions should have the power, which they can now

only execute in sessions, of making orders of maintenance on near relations.

That a power should also be given to enable overseers to recover, by a summary process, the possession of tenements which they may have rented and used for the accommodation of the poor, without being driven to the tedious and expensive proceeding by way of ejectment.

Your committee moreover think, that the vexation and expense of removals might, in some instances, be saved, by an arrangement for postponing the execution of the order, till after a final decision in case of appeal.

It is also suggested, that the power given by the Mutiny Act (vide 56 Geo. III. cap. 10, sect. 70,) "to any justice of the peace, where any soldier shall be quartered, in case such soldier have either wife, child, or children, to examine such soldier as to the place of his last legal settlement, and which requires him to give an attested copy to such soldier, of any affidavit made by him in this respect, in order to be produced when required; and which provides that such attested copy shall be at any time admitted in evidence, as to such last legal settlement," be extended to any person confined in any gaol or place of safe custody in Great Britain, provided that such copy of the examination shall not be admitted in evidence after the discharge of such prisoner.

By the act 22 Geo. III. c. 83, it is provided, that when any application shall be made to a justice of the peace for relief, such justice shall not summon the guardian, unless

unless application shall have been first made by the applicant to the guardian, and if he refuses redress, to the visitor. In incorporated parishes, the visitor is frequently from ten to fifteen miles distant from the residence of the pauper, and frequently absent from home. Some alteration in the law appears necessary to obviate this inconvenience.

Your committee have thus stated to the House the result of a laborious investigation, which has been protracted to a period of the session which precludes their proposing at present such legislative enactments as it might be thought fit to adopt. They cannot, however, regret this circumstance; for, conceiving that the House expected at their hands a general revision of the whole system of our Poor Laws, in which, though it be not difficult to point out inconveniences and mischiefs, yet the task of providing practical remedies is so arduous that your committee is persuaded, that even more time and labour would not have been mispent in considering further the various provisions of the law, and the numerous proposals which, from different quarters, have been submitted to their judgment. The House also will not be called upon to adopt any of the suggestions of this Report, till an ample opportunity will have been afforded to correct any errors in the judgment of your committee, or to confirm their opinions: and this delay will above all be salutary, if the lapse of time, aided by a more favourable season, should restore the kingdom in some degree to its wonted and healthy state. For, though a pe-

riod of depression and distress may bring out more prominently the weak and unsound parts of the system, it is obvious that the application of the most effectual remedies is at such a moment of more than ordinary difficulty. And if it should be the pleasure of the House that the consideration of this subject should be resumed in the next session of parliament, no inconsiderable advantage will be derived from that mass of information contained in the returns in 1815, to which they have not yet had access, and from a further valuable accession of detailed accounts of the admirable practice of Scotland.

July 4, 1817.

The Committee appointed to examine the several Petitions, which have been presented to the House against the Employment of Boys in sweeping Chimneys; and who were empowered to report the same, with their Opinion and Observations thereupon, together with the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them;—having examined Evidence upon the subject, have agreed to the following Report.

Your committee have felt it their duty, in the first place, to inquire into the laws that at present regulate the trade of chimney-sweeping; and they find, that in the year 1788 an act of parliament (28 Geo. III. chap. 48.) was passed, entitled, “An Act for the better regulation of Chimney-sweepers and their Apprentices.” To the preamble of which, they wish to direct the attention of the House:—Whereas the laws now
in

in being, respecting masters and apprentices, do not provide sufficient regulations, so as to prevent various complicated miseries to which boys employed in climbing and cleansing of chimneys are liable, beyond any other employment whatsoever in which boys of tender years are engaged: and whereas the misery of the said boys might be much alleviated, if some legal powers and authorities were given for the regulation of chimney-sweepers and their apprentices."—This act, though it has in some respects fulfilled the intention of the legislature, yet your committee have heard in evidence before them, that its principal enacting clause, viz. the regulating the age at which apprentices shall be taken, is constantly evaded; and they are decidedly of opinion, that the various and complicated miseries to which the unfortunate children are exposed, cannot be relieved by regulations. The 28th of Geo. III. enacts, That no person shall employ any boy, in the nature of an apprentice or servant, under the age of eight years; yet your committee have been informed, that infants of the early ages of four, five and six years, have been employed, it being the practice for parents to sell their children to this trade, under-stating their age; besides, this clause is not considered by the master chimney-sweepers as prohibiting their employment of their own children; and instances have been adduced before your committee, that have satisfied them that such cases are by no means unfrequent. Your committee have also heard, from one of the master chimney-sweepers,

that it is the custom of the trade to take the parent's word for the age of the apprentice—that no other evidence is asked for—that he never heard of its being the practice of the masters to get a certificate of the age, and he was ignorant that the act of parliament required it. Your committee refer generally to the evidence for proofs of the cruelties that are practised, and of the ill-usage, and the peculiar hardships that are the lot of the wretched children who are employed in this trade. It is in evidence that they are stolen from their parents, and inveigled out of workhouses; that in order to conquer the natural repugnance of the infants to ascend the narrow and dangerous chimneys, to clean which their labour is required, blows are used; that pins are forced into their feet by the boy that follows them up the chimney, in order to compel them to ascend it; and that lighted straw has been applied for that purpose; that the children are subject to sores and bruises, and wounds and burns on their thighs, knees, and elbows; and that it will require many months before the extremities of the elbows and knees become sufficiently hard to resist the excoriations to which they are at first subject; and that one of the masters being asked if those boys are employed in sweeping chimneys during the soreness of those parts, he answered, "It depends upon the sort of master they have got. Some are obliged to put them to work sooner than others; you must keep them a little at it even during the sores, or they will never learn their business." Your committee are informed

informed that the deformity of the spine, legs, arms, &c. of these boys, proceeds generally, if not wholly, from the circumstance of their being obliged to ascend chimneys at an age when their bones are in a soft and growing state; but likewise, by their being compelled to carry bags of soot and cloths, the weight of which sometimes exceed twenty or thirty pounds, not including the soot, the burthen of which they also occasionally bear for a great length of distance and time; the knees and ancle joints become deformed, in the first instance, from the position they are obliged to put them in, in order to support themselves, not only while climbing up the chimney, but more particularly so whilst coming down, when they rest solely on the lower extremities, the arms being used for scraping and sweeping down the soot. Your committee refer generally to the observation of every one as to the stunted growth, the deformed state of body, the look of wretchedness and disease which characterizes this unfortunate class; but it is in evidence before them, that there is a formidable complaint which chimney-sweepers in particular are liable to; from which circumstance, by way of distinction, it is called the Chimney-sweeper's Cancer. Mr. Wright, a surgeon, informed your committee, that whilst he was attending Guy's and Saint Bartholomew's Hospitals, he had several cases under his care, some of which were operated on; but in general they are apt to let them go too far before they apply for relief. Cancers of the lips are not so general as cancers of the scro-

tum; the witness never saw but two instances of the former, though several of the latter. Mr. Cline informed your committee by letter, that this disease is rarely seen in any other persons than chimney-sweepers, and in them cannot be considered as frequent; for during his practice in St. Thomas's Hospital, for more than forty years, the number of those cases could not exceed twenty; but your committee have been informed, that the dread of the operation which it is necessary to perform, deters many from submitting to it; and from the evidence of persons engaged in the trade, it appears to be much more common than Mr. Cline seems to be aware of. But it is not only the early and hard labour, the spare diet, wretched lodging, and harsh treatment, which is the lot of these children, but in general they are kept almost entirely destitute of education, and moral or religious instruction; they form a sort of class by themselves, and from their work being done early in the day, they are turned into the streets to pass their time in idleness and depravity: thus they become an easy prey to those whose occupation it is to delude the ignorant and entrap the unwary; and if their constitution is strong enough to resist the diseases and deformities which are the consequences of their trade, and that they should grow so much in stature as no longer to be useful in it, they are cast upon the world without any means of obtaining a livelihood, with no habits of industry, or rather, what too frequently happens, with confirmed habits of idleness and vice.

In

In addition to which, it appears, that from the trade being constantly overstocked, a large proportion of the older chimney sweepers (as it is stated, one half) are constantly in a course of being thrown out of employ. Your committee have endeavoured to learn the number of persons who may be considered as engaged in the trade within the bills of mortality: they have learnt that the total number of master chimney sweepers might be estimated at 200, who had among them 500 apprentices; that not above 20 of those masters were reputable tradesmen in easy circumstances, who appeared generally to conform to the provisions of the act, and which twenty had, upon an average, from four to five apprentices each; that about ninety were of an inferior class of master chimney-sweepers, who had, upon an average, three apprentices each, and who were extremely negligent of their health, their morals, and their education; and that about ninety, the remainder of the 200 masters, were a class of chimney-sweepers recently journeymen, who took up the trade because they had no other resource—who picked up boys as they could—who lodged them with themselves in huts, sheds, and cellars, in the outskirts of the town, occasionally wandering into the villages round: and that in these two classes, being in the proportion of 180 to 20, the miseries of the trade were principally to be found. It is in evidence before your committee, that at Hadleigh, Barnet, Uxbridge, and Windsor, female children have been employed.

Your committee observe, that

in general among the most respectable part of the trade, the apprentices are of the age prescribed by the act, viz. from 8 to 14; but even among the most respectable it is the constant practice to borrow the younger boys from one another, for the purpose of sweeping what are called the narrow flues. No accurate account could be obtained of the ages of the apprentices of the other classes; but they had the youngest children, who either were their own, or engaged as apprentices; and who, in many instances, it was ascertained, were much below the prescribed age; thus, the youngest and most delicate children are in the service of the worst class of masters, and employed exclusively to clean flues, which, from their peculiar construction, cannot be swept without great personal hazard.

Your committee have had laid before them an account of various accidents that have happened to chimney-sweepers, by being forced to ascend these small flues. They beg leave to refer particularly to a recent case, which occurred on Thursday the 6th day of March 1817, and which is contained in the minutes of evidence. They wish also to direct the attention of the House to one of those instances of cruelty, which terminated in the death of an infant of about six years of age, in the month of April 1816: William Moles and Sarah his wife were tried at the Old Bailey for the wilful murder of John Hewley alias Haseley, by cruelly beating him. Under the direction of the learned judge, they were acquitted of the crime of murder, but the husband

was detained to take his trial for a misdemeanor, of which he was convicted upon the fullest evidence, and sentenced to two years imprisonment. The facts of the case were, that this infant was forced up the chimney on the shoulder of a larger boy, and afterwards violently pulled down again by the leg, and dashed against a marble hearth; his leg was thus broken, and he died a few hours after; on his body and knees were found sores, arising from wounds of a much older date. But it is not only the ill-treatment which the regular apprentices suffer from the cruel conduct of some masters that your committee are anxious to comment on; it appears that in order to evade the penalty of the act of parliament, some of these masters frequently hire young lads as journeymen who have not been apprenticed to chimney-sweepers; these are children who have no parents, and who are enticed away from the different workhouses of the Metropolis.

Having thus shortly detailed the leading facts of the evidence which has been given before them, of the miseries which the unfortunate class of beings who are sold to this trade experience, your committee have with great anxiety examined various persons, as to the possibility of performing by the aid of machinery what is now done by the labour of the climbing boys: the result of their inquiries is, that though there may be some difference of opinion as to the extent to which machinery is here applicable, yet the lowest calculation of practical and experienced persons, master chimney-sweepers

themselves, who have been brought up in the trade, establishes the fact, that of the chimneys in the metropolis three-fourths may be as well, as cleanly, and as cheaply swept by mechanical means as by the present method; and the remaining part being, on the very greatest calculation, one-fourth of the whole number, with alterations that may easily and cheaply be made, can be swept also without the employment of the climbing boy. Mr. Bevens, an architect much conversant with buildings in the Metropolis, has no doubt that 95 out of 100 can be swept by the machines that are at present in use; and he has also no doubt that, supposing there was to be a legislative enactment that no chimney should be swept by the means of climbing boys, that easy substitutes could be found that would sweep every chimney that now exists. He adds, that though there may be difficulties in cleaning an horizontal flue, from the quantity of soot, yet it is equally bad for the boys as for the machine; because the boy, as he comes down, has an accumulation of soot about him, which stops up the circulation of air necessary to support life. So that it is evident, in all those chimneys where, under their present construction, the machine cannot be used, the hazard of loss of life to the boy who sweeps them, is most imminent.

Some of these flues are stated not to be above seven inches square; and one of the witnesses, who relates this fact to the Committee, informs them, that he himself had been often in hazard of his life; and that he has frequently swept a long

a long narrow flue in Goldsmith's Hall, in which he was shut up six hours before his work was finished.

Upon a review then of the evidence of the evils necessarily belonging to this trade, as well as of the remedies which have been suggested, First, in the substitution of mechanical means, thus superseding the necessity of employing children in this painful and degrading trade; and, secondly, in allowing the system to continue in the main as it is, with only those amendments to the existing law, that may attempt to remedy the present practice;—your Committee are decidedly of opinion, that no parliamentary regulations can attain this desirable end; that as long as master chimney-sweepers are permitted to employ climbing boys, the natural result of that permission will be the continuance of those miseries which the legislature has sought, but which it has failed to put an end to; they therefore recommend, that the use of climbing boys should be prohibited altogether; and that the age at which the apprenticeship should commence should be extended from eight to fourteen, putting this trade upon the same footing as others which take apprentices at that age; and, finally, your committee have come to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Chairman be directed to move for leave to bring in a bill for preventing the further use of climbing boys in sweeping of chimneys.

23d June, 1817.

FIRST REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

The Select Committee appointed to inquire into, and state, the income and expenditure of the United Kingdom, for the year ended the 5th of January, 1817; and also to consider and state the probable income and expenditure, (so far as the same can now be estimated) for the years ending the 5th of January, 1818, and the 5th of January, 1819, respectively; and to report the same, together with their observations thereupon, from time to time, to the House, and also to consider what further measures may be adopted for the relief of the country from any part of the said expenditure, without detriment to the public interest;

Having had under their consideration the state of various offices in the United Kingdom, which are commonly, though incorrectly, known under the general denomination of sinecures, conceive that they cannot better discharge the duty imposed upon them by the latter part of the order of reference, than by bringing under the early notice of the House, the annual charge incurred by the continuance of offices, either wholly useless, or the salaries of which appear disproportionate to their actual duties; and of the system, which they submit, as fit to be substituted in their stead.

The subject is by no means new to the house, having been brought under discussion at various times within the last ten years, and particularly in the session of 1812, when it was made the foundation

of a bill, which having passed the House, was carried to the House of Lords on the 17th of June, and in the session of 1813, when the same bill was carried to the House of Lords on the 5th of April.

The classification of the several offices, and some of the provisions of that bill, are followed and referred to in the course of this report, as the most convenient mode of conducting the inquiry relating to them.

The object of your committee was to ascertain, first, what offices may be reduced or regulated (after the expiration of the existing interests) without detriment to the public service. Secondly, under what regulations such of those offices as it may be deemed proper to continue ought to be administered after the expiration of the existing interests. Thirdly, as it is obvious, that whenever such regulations and reductions as are contemplated by your committee shall be carried into effect, the means of rewarding meritorious public service will be in great measure taken from the Crown, your committee deem it indispensable that provision should be made for enabling the Crown, under proper regulations and restrictions, to afford a reasonable recompense for the faithful discharge of high and effective civil offices.

OFFICES IN ENGLAND.

The view which your committee have taken of the two offices of Chief Justice in Eyre, North and South of Trent, is, that they may be abolished without detriment to the public service, and the emoluments thereof become a future saving to the public; regard be-

ing had in these, as well as in every other office which forms the subject of this report, to the existing interests.

In the Exchequer, reasons of a like nature exist for dealing in the same manner with the offices of

Auditor of the Exchequer,

Clerk of the Pells,

Four Tellers of the Exchequer; so that, whenever vacancies shall occur in any of them, the salary payable to the principal in such office shall cease, and become a saving to the public.

Warden of the Cinque Ports,

Governor of the Isle of Wight:

The same rule applies to these two offices, so that the salaries payable at the Exchequer, or out of any public funds, may cease, and become a future saving to the public.

Commissary General of Musters.

—This office may be abolished without inconvenience to the public service.

Joint Paymaster-General.—The office of one of the Joint Paymasters may also be abolished, being wholly inefficient and useless, with regard to all business connected with the army; but it must be recollected, that an effective and very important situation, without salary, has been frequently held, and is now held, by one of the Joint Paymasters; for the discharge of which your committee do not consider the salary of 2,000*l.* at present attached to the office of second paymaster, as more than adequate; but they submit to the House, that it will be more consistent with the system which they wish to introduce, that the Vice-President of the Board of Trade should receive a salary as such,

such, than be paid indirectly as one of the Joint Paymasters-General.

One Deputy Paymaster-General.—The office of Paymaster-General being recommended to be executed by one person, it follows, of course, that one deputy in the office will be sufficient; and that the salary now received by the second deputy should be saved.

There are no longer any Deputy-Paymasters abroad acting by deputy; and the duties of all the Deputy-Paymasters themselves, during peace, are transferred to the commissariat.

The office of Paymaster of Marines is now discharged in person, under regulations adopted in 1813, without any deputy allowed, or paid by the public; but as some further inquiries may be necessary before your committee can finally report upon it, they defer their observations until the estimates for the Navy shall come before them, with which this office is immediately connected.

Upon the office of Paymaster of Widows' Pensions, although no strong objections occur to your committee against uniting it with the foregoing office, yet so long as it continues at the low scale of expense at which it is now fixed, it does not seem expedient to recommend any alteration for the purpose of effecting a saving, which would, if any, be very inconsiderable. The annual charge is no more than 680*l.* and ample security is taken, amounting to 20,000*l.* for the money in charge, and for the punctual payment of nearly 70,000*l.* in very small sums, to 2,200 widows, scattered over every part of the United King-

dom, and many of them resident abroad. It must be further observed, that though the salary of this office, having been formerly paid out of the produce of old stores, is now annually voted in the naval estimates, yet the appointment is not vested in the Crown, but in the governors of this charity.

Law Clerk in the Secretary of State's Office.—It appearing that no duties whatever are annexed to this office, your committee recommend that it should be altogether abolished.

Collector and Transmitter of State Papers.—The same observation applies as to the last office.

The inconsiderable offices of Principal Housekeeper and Warehousekeeper in the Excise Office, Established Messenger in the War Office, and some others, included in the table of the bill of 1812 and 1813, were at that time held as sinecures: with regard to these, it is sufficient to lay down as a rule, that no person in future should be allowed to hold any inferior office of this description, without performing the duty in person; and where no duty is attached (as in the case of Cartaker to his Majesty) all such nominal offices should be suppressed.

The offices of Joint Postmaster-General in England and Ireland do not appear to your committee to come under the general description of those which form the subject of this report. They are, therefore, not prepared at present to suggest to the House any alteration in this mode of conducting this important department of the public service. If, on the one hand,

hand, they are strongly of opinion that it would be inexpedient to place this branch of the public revenue under the direction of a board, with a constitution similar to that of other revenue boards, as recommended by the finance committee of 1797, in their seventh report; on the other hand, they are by no means prepared to state an opinion, that the management of the revenue of the Post-office, amounting in England to a gross receipt of 2,116,087*l.* and involving an expenditure of 593,620*l.* and amounting in Ireland to a gross receipt of 230,000*l.* and involving an expenditure of 148,000*l.*, together with the complicated concerns by which this department is connected with the convenience of the community, and the commercial interests of the empire, can, without disadvantage, be permanently confided to one individual.

Your committee have learnt with satisfaction, that, by the last indenture of the Mint, the office of Clerk of the Irons has been merged in that of superintendent of the machinery, which is a very necessary and effective office; and that it is provided by the same indenture, that the office of Comptroller of the Mint should, at the termination of the present existing interest, be executed in person by the present deputy, at the salary which he now receives, thereby effecting a saving of the salary and emoluments of the principal. The office of Warden of the Mint, it is understood, will, in like manner, be discontinued; as well as every other office in this department which comes within the principle of regulation or abo-

lition, which it is the object of your committee to extend to all offices of this description.

Clerk of the Parliaments.—Your committee recommend that this office should be abolished, and that the fees, if continued, should be appropriated towards defraying the sessional expenses of the House of Lords.

Four Clerks of the Signet, and Four Clerks of the Privy Seal.—Your committee are not aware of any detriment which can accrue to the public service from discontinuing these offices, the duty of which is executed by deputy.

Comptroller-General of Accounts, Excise, and Inspector-General.—These offices being connected with the collection and management of the revenue, and having no efficient duties, ought of course to be abolished.

Register to Commissioner of Excise, Inspector-General of Coffee and Tea, &c. and all other offices, whether enumerated in the table to the bill of 1813, or not, the duties of which are connected with the collection and receipt of the public revenue, ought, in the opinion of your committee, to be abolished, so far as the salaries of those offices are payable to individuals who do not execute in person the efficient duties of such offices.

SCOTLAND.

Keeper of the Great Seal.—Your committee recommend, that this office should be preserved; but the salary regulated, so as not to exceed 2000*l.* per annum.

Keeper of the Privy Seal.—In recommending that this office should be continued, a salary of 1000*l.*

1000*l.* a year appears to be sufficient.

The office of Lord Justice-General.—Your committee recommend, that after the termination of the existing interest in this office, the President of the Court of Sessions, for the time being, should assume the title, rank, and privileges of Lord Justice-General, and that the salary now annexed to this office should be discontinued.

Keeper of the Signet.—All the duties of this office may be annexed to that of Lord Register, and the fees should be carried to the public account; and with respect to the office of Lord Register, a fixed salary of 1500*l.* a year appears to be an adequate provision.

Knight Marshal.—The office to be retained, but the salary discontinued.

Vice Admiral.—Ditto.

Governor and other offices in the Mint may be abolished. The buildings of the Mint in Scotland should be disposed of in such manner as may appear to the Lords of the Treasury most advantageous to the crown.

Receiver-General of Bishops' Rents.

Auditor of Exchequer.

Assistant Surveyor General of Taxes.

Comptroller-General of Customs.

These offices may be abolished.

The Cashier and Receiver-General of Excise —Your committee cannot too strongly express their opinion that this office ought to be executed in person; and even taking into consideration the amount of the security required,

which is stated to be 30,000*l.* they are of opinion that a salary of 1000*l.* a year would be ample to insure the regular attendance of a responsible person competent to give security to that amount.

Three old Inspectors of Wheel-carriages, Gazette Writer, and Inspector-General of Roads, are offices to be abolished; the last being added to this list as included in the army estimates.

IRELAND.

Clerk of the Pells.

Teller of the Exchequer.

Auditor-General.

The necessary duties attached to these offices must continue to be performed; but the salary and emoluments now receivable by the principals should become, as in the English Exchequer, a saving to the public.

Keeper of the Privy Seal.—This office is now held for life; but it should, after the termination of the existing interest, be granted during pleasure only, and always annexed to the office of Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant.

Surveyor-General of Crown-Lands.

Keeper of Records, Birmingham Tower.

Keeper of the Records of Parliament.

Clerk of the Paper-office.

These officers have charge of public documents, which may be transferred to the building which has been constructed for the custody of the public records of Ireland; and the several appointments above enumerated may be abolished.

Accountant to the Board of General Officers.

Secretary

Secretary to the Board of General Officers.

Corrector and Supervisor of his Majesty's Printing Press.

Compiler of the Dublin Gazette.

Master of the Revels.

Seneschal of his Majesty's Manors.

Accountant-General (an office paid from the civil list.)

Supervisor of Accounts, Barrack Department.

Barrack Master of the Royal Barracks.

These offices may be abolished, or if in any instance they have powers or functions attached to them which it is necessary to retain, they may be transferred to other effective offices, without any addition whatever to their emoluments: as the transfer cannot impose any additional labour or responsibility.

Constable of the Castle of Limerick.

Ditto, Dublin.

Ditto, Castlemain.

The salary payable to these officers out of the civil list should become a saving to the public. The offices may, if necessary, be retained without salary.

Clerk of the Council.

Muster-master-General (held by two persons).

Pratique Master of the port of Dublin.

Storekeeper of the Customs.

The duties attached to these offices ought to be discharged in person by those who hold them, and the salaries now paid to the principals to become a saving to the public.

There were several other offices enumerated in the table annexed

to the bill of 1813, in the Customs and Excise departments of the revenue, the duties of which were not performed in person.

Your committee have learnt with satisfaction, that to any of these offices which have become vacant since the passing of that bill by the House, no appointment has been made by the Irish government; and that the salaries attached to them have been saved, by removing the individuals holding them to other effective offices.

They therefore have only to express their opinion that such of the offices enumerated in the table as yet remain, should be abolished as opportunities occur, and to recommend generally that the duties of all offices, of whatever description, connected with the collection and receipt of the public revenue, should be performed in person, by those who hold them, at reasonable rates of salary.

ENGLAND.

Offices in Courts of Law in the Gift of the Crown.

The appointment to the under mentioned offices in the Court of Exchequer having been stated to your committee not to belong to the judges of that court, but to be in the gift of the crown, and it appearing that the duties of them are executed by deputy, there appears no reason for their being continued, except upon such an establishment as may afford an adequate remuneration to the proper officers hereafter appointed to discharge the duties in person.

EXCHEQUER.

EXCHEQUER.

King's Remembrancer.
 Clerk of the Pleas.
 Clerk of the Pipe.
 Comptroller of the Pipe.
 Deputy ditto.
 Marshal.
 Foreign Apposer.
 Surveyor and Receiver-General
 of Green Wax.
 Three Messengers out of four.
 Lord Treasurer's Remembran-
 cer.
 Clerk of Foreign Estreats.
 Clerk of the Nichils.
 Comptrollers of First Fruits.

ALIENATION OFFICE.

Three Commissioners.
 Receiver-General.
 Two Entering Clerks.
 Master in Chancery.
 Solicitor of the Exchequer.

SCOTLAND.

Direction of the Court of Chan-
 cery.

Clerk of the Court of Chan-
 cery.

Principal Clerk in the Court of
 Admiralty.

King's Remembrancer.

Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer
 in the Court of Exchequer.

One of the Clerks in the Pipe
 Office.

Presenter of Signatures, Ex-
 chequer.

Register of Seisins.

Clerk of the Admission of No-
 taries in the Court of Session.

All these offices are understood
 by your committee to be executed
 wholly by deputy, and to come,

therefore, within the principle of
 regulation or abolition after the
 termination of the present inte-
 rests. It is however necessary to
 observe, with respect to the offices
 of Director of the Court of Chan-
 cery, Presenter of Signatures, and
 Register of Seisins in Scotland,
 that as the duties of these three
 offices are stated to be highly im-
 portant, and not only intimately
 connected with each other, but
 with the legal forms and proceed-
 ings on which the titles and secu-
 rity of real estates essentially de-
 pend in that part of the united
 kingdom, your committee would,
 upon every principle, abstain from
 interfering with any of those legal
 forms and proceedings; and all
 which they have to submit with
 respect to the offices in question
 is, that the emoluments of them
 ought to be so regulated, as to
 ensure the due execution in per-
 son of their respective duties, by
 individuals competent by their
 professional knowledge to dis-
 charge those duties, and by their
 station in society to give such
 security as may be deemed ade-
 quate to the extent and nature of
 the trust appertaining to each of
 them respectively.

IRELAND.

All the offices in the courts of
 law in Ireland, included in the list
 annexed to the bill of 1813, with
 the exception of those which have
 hitherto been in the gift of the
 chief judges of the courts of law
 in Ireland, ought, in the opinion
 of your committee, to be regulated
 on

on such principles as shall ensure the performance of their duties in person, by those who hold them, at such just and reasonable salaries as shall hereafter be determined on.

The following are the offices enumerated in that list, which are understood to have hitherto been in the nomination of the crown:—

Public Registrar of Deeds,
Clerk of Crown and Hanaper,
Chief Remembrancer,
Clerk of the Pipe,
Comptroller of the Pipe,
Chirographer,
Prothonotary, Common Pleas,
Prothonotary, King's Bench,
Crown Office, King's Bench,
Transcripitor and Foreign Ap-
poser,
Clerk of the Report Office,
Pursuivant, Court of Exche-
quer,
Register of Forfeitures,
Usher of the Exchequer,
Register, Court of Chancery,
Accountant-General, ditto,
Serjeant at Arms, Pleas Office,
Lord Treasurer's, or 2d Re-
membrancer, Exchequer.

The right of appointment to the Clerkship of the Pleas of the Court of Exchequer has been contested by the Chief Baron of that court; and the right is not yet finally determined.

The duties of the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery are now performed in person by the individual who holds the office; a vacancy in the office having occurred since the passing of the bill of 1813.

The same observation applies to the office of Comptroller of the Pipe.

COLONIAL OFFICES.

Upon the colonial offices sufficient materials have not been laid before your committee for presenting them fully and satisfactorily to the view of the House; but the general principle to be applied in dealing with them appears to be, in the first place, that of enforcing, to the utmost, residence within the colonies, or foreign possessions to which those offices belong, and personal performance by the principal of the duties annexed to them: the second object to be attained ought to be the reduction of the salaries to such a rate, as may afford a fair and sufficient recompense for the services to be performed; and any saving which can be derived from such regulations should be applied (as the case may be) in aid of some of the public burdens incidental to the civil government of such colonies or foreign possessions: observing farther, that in the old colonies any such application of savings must be made at the recommendation of the governors of such colonies, with the consent of the local legislatures of each.

It is difficult to state, with accuracy, the aggregate annual value of all the offices which have been mentioned. Those which depend upon fees fluctuate considerably in their amount from various circumstances; and there are several others (particularly those belonging to the colonies) of which the income has never been exactly returned. Referring, therefore, to the statements already before the House in the Third Report of Public Expenditure, and in the Reports

Reports upon Sinecure Offices, and taking also into account the regulation or abolition of some offices since that period, your committee see no reason to doubt that the annual income now derived from the offices which are thus brought under the observation of the House, as being at the disposal of the crown, and fit to be abolished or regulated, may be estimated at from 90,000*l.* to 100,000*l.*

REGULATIONS

Applicable to Offices, the Duties of which are necessary to be continued.

The inquiries now made have fully confirmed the observation contained in the First Report of the committee upon sinecure offices appointed in 1810: "That the number of offices which have revenue without any employment either of principal or deputy, is very inconsiderable, and that by far the greatest number of offices which are commonly described as sinecure, fall properly under the description of offices executed by deputy, or offices having revenue disproportionate to employment."

The only situations, in England, of any considerable emolument which can be considered as perfect sinecures, are the two offices of Chief Justice in Eyre, North and South of Trent; upon which your committee have only to state, that there will be no difficulty in transferring any formal duties belonging to these offices (if any such still remain) to the Commissioners of Woods and Land Revenue; and that by this arrange-

ment the present salaries may be wholly saved, whenever these offices shall become vacant. These salaries, as well as that of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, being paid out of the English civil list, and the salaries of several offices in Scotland and Ireland being in like manner charged upon the respective civil lists of those parts of the United Kingdom, your committee recommend, that a general rule should be laid down for carrying to the consolidated fund these and similar savings, as they may arise, after the termination of the interests now existing in any offices charged upon those funds.

In Scotland there is one office of high rank and emolument, that of Lord Justice-General, which appears to come under the same description as having no employment either of principal or deputy, and to the salary of which the same principle of reduction would consequently apply, in the event of the office being annexed by law to that of Lord President of the Court of Sessions. One or two other offices enumerated in the schedule, but of inferior rank and emolument, have not, as far as your committee have been enabled to ascertain, any duties or responsibility annexed to them; they therefore should be abolished altogether, as soon as they may become vacant.

With respect to all the remaining offices included in the schedule of the bill of 1813, being those which are not altogether without employment, but which have either emoluments greatly disproportionate to such employment, or are wholly

wholly executed by deputy, your committee do not feel themselves competent to recommend any general regulation by which the proper scale of salary in any of them may be settled, as soon as the proposed reductions can be accomplished. They do not possess all the information necessary for this purpose ; and, even if they did, it is possible that an establishment, which might be now adequate for any particular office, might cease to be so before the termination of the existing interest.

Your committee are therefore of opinion that it should be left to the judgment and responsibility of the Lords of the Treasury for the time being, as vacancies occur, to place the several offices proposed to be regulated upon such an establishment with respect to the number and rank of the persons requisite for the discharge of the efficient functions of such offices, and the amount of salary to be assigned to each person, as may appear to them adequate, after a full inquiry into the nature and extent of the duties to be performed, and the degree of official and pecuniary responsibility which necessarily attaches to some of them. If it should be thought proper in any act to be passed, with reference to the subject of this report, to enact, that whenever any of the said offices shall be reduced and regulated, there should be laid before both Houses of parliament a comparative statement of the number, duty, and emolument of the respective officers under the old and new establishments, your committee conceive that the parliamentary check,

created by this arrangement, would be sufficient to prevent any abuse of a power which seems properly to belong to the Lords of the Treasury, as the official and responsible advisers of the crown, upon all matters which relate to the superintendence and control over the public expenditure.

It may not be improper, in treating this part of the inquiry, to call the attention of the House more distinctly to some peculiar circumstances before alluded to, which are connected with offices of great emolument in the courts of law in Ireland.

It appears, that upon a vacancy which recently occurred in the office of Clerk of the Pleas in the Court of Exchequer, by the death of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, a claim to the appointment to that office was preferred by the Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland, and an individual was appointed by him, and was sworn in before the Court of Exchequer. A proceeding, by *quo warranto*, was instituted on the part of the crown, and the judgment of the Court of King's Bench was adverse to the claim of the Chief Baron. An appeal, however, has been made to the Court of Error ; and may hereafter be made, by either party, to the House of Lords. In the mean time, by an act of the legislature, 56th Geo. III. c. 122, the emoluments of the office are paid into the treasury, and the due discharge of all the official duties provided for. It is not impossible that claims, similar to those which have been preferred in this instance by the Chief Baron, may be preferred to the appointment to other offices in the law courts of

of Ireland, of great and disproportionate emolument, which have hitherto been considered as at the disposal of the crown.

Your committee cannot, however, avoid submitting to the House, whether it would not be perfectly consistent, both in justice and sound policy, to provide for the regulation of all such offices after the expiration of the legally vested interests, upon the principle on which it is proposed to regulate other offices partaking of the nature of sinecures.

The duties attached to many of the principal offices in the courts of law in Ireland appear indeed to be so various and important, and to be necessarily performed by so many persons, that it would be extremely difficult, without the most mature consideration, and probably without inquiries instituted on the spot, to suggest any arrangement for the future conduct of the business of these offices, when the existing interests in them shall have terminated.

Your committee understand, however, that there is at present a commission in Ireland, appointed in consequence of an address of the House, to inquire into the state of the courts of law in that part of the United Kingdom. It would be very desirable that the members of this commission should be required by the Executive Government, to examine, with as little delay as possible, into the circumstances under which the several offices in the courts of law, which have hitherto been considered in the disposal of the Crown, stand, with respect to the performance of the duties attached to them; and that they should also

be required to suggest such a plan for the future regulation of these offices, as shall provide for the respective duties being discharged in person, at such salaries as shall be deemed a just and reasonable compensation to the individuals discharging them.

An act of the legislature will be necessary to give effect to any plan which may be suggested by the commissioners; it will therefore be competent to Parliament to adopt generally the suggestions made by the commissioners, or to depart from them according to their discretion.

In the supposable event of a vacancy occurring in any of these offices before the commissioners make their report, it is of course understood, that a temporary arrangement will be made for the performance of all the necessary duties, which shall not in any way interfere with the immediate regulation of the offices, on the principles above recommended.

MODE OF REWARDING HIGH AND EFFICIENT POLITICAL SERVICES.

Your committee would have found themselves under considerable difficulty in submitting to the House any specific plan for enabling the Crown to reward high and efficient political services, if they had not taken for their guidance the principles and regulations established by the bill so often referred to, as the basis of the suggestions which they have to offer under this head.

After an attentive consideration of the mode proposed in that bill for enabling the Crown to recompense the faithful and meritorious discharge of high and efficient civil

civil offices, your committee cannot but entertain an opinion that, consistently, as they trust, with this important object, it will be practicable to make the new means of reward which it is proposed to grant to the Crown less extensive, and, at the same time, to place the power of conferring those rewards under limitations more restrictive than had been provided by the regulations of that bill.

Retaining the list and classification of offices according to that bill, your committee are of opinion, that it would be expedient either to limit the total sum, which should in no case be exceeded, or to proceed, in another mode, towards attaining the same object:

1st. By limiting the number of pensions which could be granted, and in operation at any one time in each class. 2dly. By providing that the power of granting such pensions should be called progressively into operation at stated intervals, affording a reasonable probability, that at least an equal saving will have been effected by the falling in of the salaries or emoluments of some of the offices to be regulated or abolished, instead of commencing at once upon the vacancy of the first of such offices as might exceed 2,000*l.* a year, or at any one given period. 2dly. That the provision of the bill which would have made it lawful for his Majesty, when any person should have served in more than one of the four classes, to grant such pension as is annexed to the highest class in which he may have been employed (without any reference to the duration of his service in that class) should be so far amended as to require from

any such person a certain period of service in the higher class.

With reference to these principles of modification, your committee submit, that the number of pensions in each of the four classes should be limited as follows:

1st Class—First Lord of the Treasury, First Lord of the Admiralty, Three Secretaries of State, Chancellor of the Exchequer—six pensions of 3,000*l.*

2d Class—Chief Secretary for Ireland, Secretary at War—three pensions of 2000*l.*

N. B. The Chancellor of the Exchequer for Ireland was included in this class in the Bill of 1813.

3d Class—Two Secretaries of the Treasury, Principal Secretary of the Admiralty—6 pensions of 1,500*l.*

4th class—Under Secretaries of State, Clerk of the Ordnance—6 pensions of 1,000*l.*

That the Crown should have the power of granting one pension in each of these classes, except the second, at the end of two years from the adoption of this system by the legislature, and so in succession at intervals of two years, until the expiration of twelve years, when it shall be lawful to the Crown to grant the whole number of pensions proposed in each class. With respect to the second class, it is proposed that the power should not commence till the expiration of four years, so as to come into complete operation at the same period of twelve years, as in the three other classes.

Your committee conceive that the offices of the President of the Board of Control, and Secretary to that Board, come within the description

description of effective, civil, and political offices, so far as to entitle them to be considered in any general system intended to be laid down with regard to such offices; but they leave it to the wisdom of the House to determine whether, as their salaries are entirely drawn from another quarter, and not from public revenue, these offices ought to be included in the provisions of any bill which may be framed upon the recommendations contained in this report, or to form the subject of some other legislative measure.

The regulations of the bill, with respect to length of service in each of the four classes, your committee are of opinion might be amended in the following manner:—

1st Class—not less than two years' service in one or more of the offices of that class: 2d and 3d classes—either five years' service in one of the offices of that class, or three years in that class, and not less than five years in some of the offices of the other classes, so as to make, in that case, at least eight years' service; but in the whole 4th class, at least ten years' service.

The only further alteration which it has occurred to your committee to recommend in limitation of the regulations of the bill, is, that the pensions of each class should, in all cases, be limited to the smaller sum specified in the bill, viz. 3,000*l.* for the first class; 2,000*l.* for the second; 1,500*l.* for the third; and 1,000*l.* for the fourth; without any progressive increase depending upon length of service; and that one half of such pension should abate

upon the grantee being appointed to any civil office or employment under the Crown of equal or greater amount.

It has occurred to your committee, that circumstances might possibly arise, though of occasional and rare occurrence, in which it might be highly expedient for the Crown to possess the power of granting one pension in the first class, without reference to any specific period of service in the person to whom it might be granted; and although there might be no actual vacancy in the class. They therefore submit to the House, whether it might not be expedient to grant such a power, subject to any regulations in the mode of exercising it which may be thought necessary, and subject also to a provision that any such grant should be held to be supernumerary; so that, upon any subsequent vacancy arising in the first class, it should not be filled up, except in favour of the person holding such extraordinary pension; who from that time would be considered as forming one of the limited list of six.

Although it may be objected to the limited number proposed by your committee for each class, that circumstances may arise in which, from the whole number of pensions in any of the classes having been previously granted, the crown might for a time be debarred from remunerating a person, who, by long and meritorious services, might be entitled to such a reward; such an inconvenience, they apprehend, could only exist for a short time; and on the other hand, your committee are of opinion that, without some such limitation,

tion, the saving, which they contemplate as one of the inducements for substituting this mode of recompensing public service, for that which is now at the disposal of the crown, might be ultimately disappointed.

March 28, 1817.

SECOND REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

[*Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed, March 29, 1817.*]

The Select Committee, appointed to inquire into, and state, the income and expenditure of the United Kingdom for the year ended the 5th of January, 1817, and also to consider and state the probable income and expenditure (so far as the same can now be estimated) for the years ending the 5th of January 1818, and the 5th of January, 1819, respectively, and to report the same, together with their observations thereupon from time to time, and also to consider what further measures may be adopted for the relief of the country from any part of the said expenditure, without detriment to the public interest, have proceeded to investigate the principal establishments of the country, beginning with the army.

In this department the first object that presents itself is the numerical amount of force.

Your committee are deeply sensible of the extreme difficulty of ascertaining the precise point at which our military establishments should be fixed, on account of political considerations, and others of a still more delicate nature, which must necessarily involve

themselves in the question. In taking into consideration the peace establishments of the country, it must be remembered, that if on the one hand they are proposed to be kept in a state of complete preparation, with a view of affording entire security to the nation both at home and abroad, the continued expense must bear so heavily upon the resources of the country, as to preclude all hope of relief from the burdens of taxation, and the load of debt incurred during a long series of protracted hostilities: on the other hand, if they should be reduced too low, the temporary gain in point of economy might be more than counterbalanced by the hazardous situation in which this kingdom, together with its numerous and distant dependencies, might eventually be placed upon the breaking out of an unforeseen or sudden war; for which such a state of deficient military preparation might possibly offer no small temptation.

It is rather, therefore, for the executive government, acting on their responsibility, to propose, and for the wisdom of the House to judge of, a matter of this high importance, than for your committee to offer an opinion; but they observe, in the mean time, with satisfaction, that upon a comparison between the estimates of the two last years, and those for the present year, much will appear to have been effected in the way of reduction, both as to numbers and as to expense; and they entertain a confident hope, that such further reductions will continue to be made, as may be found consistent with all the true interests of

of the country, neither erring on the side of absolute confidence on the long duration of peace, nor giving way to unwarrantable apprehensions of danger and aggression.

And your committee further submit, that as the duration and magnitude of the astonishing exertions made by this kingdom during the late war must mainly be attributed to the pecuniary resources then brought into operation, which could never be more justly deemed the sinews of war than during the whole course of that eventful contest; so these can be renovated and strengthened in no other way than by retrenchment and economy during the opportunity afforded by a return of peace.

At the same time, this most important consideration must always be kept in view—that if our military establishments should once be suffered to fall below the standard of efficiency and discipline, to which they are now raised by great exertions founded on experience, it will not be possible to restore them again to the same height without great waste of time, however urgently their best services may be required.

LAND FORCES.

P. 1, in the Estimates.

The first of the returns compares the numerical force maintained in the year 1816, with that intended to be maintained in 1817; both as to the difference of actual establishments in those two years, and of the force on account of which a charge is incurred by the public, distinguished from the force in France and in India.

The second gives the comparison of the total numbers in the years 1814 and 1817.

The third shews the comparative expense in the years 1816 and 1817, and also the expense incurred in the year 1815. The reduction of that great establishment which the war had occasioned was begun in 1816, and has been carried considerably further in the present estimates; the difference amounts to no less a sum than 1,738,496*l.* upon the net balance; although several charges, such as half pay, the Compassionate List, and other allowances of a similar kind, are necessarily augmented by the termination of the war, and a diminution of the numbers maintained on active service.

Besides the mere numerical reduction, a principle of economy has been applied to the cavalry, by a diminution of the number of horses kept for the service of each regiment, to the extent of 20 in each troop; in the last year there were only ten men dismounted in each troop, and that number is now doubled, by which a considerable charge is saved, without too far breaking down the efficiency of the regiments.

The particulars of the charge of a regiment of infantry in the years 1792 and 1817 are annexed, for the purpose of showing the general establishment of each separate regiment which prevailed at that period, compared with the present; and also for giving at one view the relative charge of maintaining the same numerical force, in the two periods, which bears the proportion of very nearly
Y
two

two to three; being 245,094*l.* in 1792, and 331,974*l.* in 1817, for 8,000 infantry.

A comparison is also given of the expense of regimenting a force of 8,000 infantry into battalions of 400 rank and file each (the establishment existing in 1792), and into battalions of 800 rank and file each; by which judicious arrangement an annual saving of 74,326*l.* as well as a more efficient staff, by the present mode of forming this amount of force on the same number, is secured to the public.

The pay of the army, with regard to rank and file, has been exactly doubled since 1792, with additional allowances after seven years of service; but the augmentation of pay and daily allowance has been made upon a much lower scale to the officers; and the colonel stands upon the same footing as in 1792.

In the cavalry no addition has been made to the pay of any rank superior to that of lieutenant, which has been increased from 8*s.* 5*d.* to 9*s.* per day; the dragoon soldiers, whose daily pay was 8*d.* in 1792, now receive 1*s.* 3*d.* with the addition of 1*d.* after ten years, and 2*d.* after seventeen years of service.

The rate of agency remains precisely the same as in 1792 for corps of infantry; for corps of cavalry, the rate of agency appears to have been reduced one-fourth, from the 25th of July, 1809. It is remarkable, that no augmentation has ever been made to the allowances for clothing and appointments of either cavalry or infantry. The rates of off-reckon-

ings were first fixed in the reign of Queen Anne, and they remain the same at the present day; but, in consequence of the great increase in the price of leather during the early part of the late war, an allowance of 15 per cent. upon the off-reckonings was granted to colonels of cavalry regiments from July, 1799, after deducting therefrom 1*l.* 16*s.* per annum for every man wanting to complete the full establishment. This allowance has been issued every two years, upon a memorial from the respective colonels, showing that no diminution had taken place in the price of appointments, with the exception of two years, from the 25th day of December, 1803, to the 24th day of December, 1805, for which the colonels did not claim it.

The difference which appears in the present and in former estimates, between the expenses of clothing some regiments of equal numbers, is occasioned by some of them being upon the British and some upon the Irish establishment, which, for a cavalry regiment of 464 rank and file, amounts, upon the British establishment, to 2,845*l.*, and upon the Irish (in Irish currency) to 3,500*l.*, or 3,230*l.* British. This is stated to be a very old regulation, in which no alteration has been made of late years.

[Here follows the comparison alluded to; by which it appears that in 1816 the total number, in the abstract, of the estimates, omitting the corps ordered for reduction in 1816, and the corps for service in India and in France, but including 21,401 officers and men in foreign

foreign corps, in British pay,
was 133,505

In 1817, total number,
omitting corps ordered
home from India, and the
corps for reduction in
1817, and also omitting the
corps for service in India
and in France 92,606

Difference or diminu-
tion in 1817, upon the
force chargeable to the
United Kingdom 40,899

Next follows a comparison be-
tween the establishment of the
army in 1814, and in 1817; from
which it appears that, in 1814,
we had, in cavalry, infantry, fo-
reign corps and embodied militia,
a force of 344,746
In 1817, a force of 122,952

Decrease in 1817, as
compared with 1814 221,794

We have then a comparative
view of the sums voted for army
services in 1815 and 1816, with
the sums estimated for 1817. The
votes for 1815 were, 13,435,392*l.*:
in 1816, 8,727,994*l.*: in 1817,
6,989,498*l.* making a decrease for
1817, of 1,738,496*l.*

This comparative view is suc-
ceeded by the particulars of the
charge of a regiment of infantry
for 1792 and 1817; and it appears
that, by forming ten battalions of
800 rank and file each, the present
ordinary establishment, instead of
20 battalions of 400 rank and file,
as in 1792, a saving is effected of
74,326*l.*]

Your committee, in making a
reference to the year 1792, desire
to call the notice of the House to
the low establishments of the latter
part of that year, which were
deemed sufficient for all national
purposes at that time, in the con-

templation of a long continuance
of peace; and although many cir-
cumstances are materially changed
by events which have subsequently
taken place, so as to prevent any
exact parallel from being drawn
between the two cases, especially
in the amount of pecuniary charge,
yet they submit, that as near an
approximation to that low scale of
establishment and expense as may
be found consistent with our more
extended possessions, and with the
augmented rates of various fixed
disbursements, would be highly
advantageous in relieving the bur-
dens, and in supporting the public
credit of the country.

The difference in numbers be-
tween the estimate of 1792 and
the present estimate is, for Great
Britain, 14,011.

Of these, 3,000 are on account
of reliefs for the foreign service,
which is very considerably in-
creased by the distant possessions
acquired during the war. The
difference for Ireland is 12,000.

The numbers estimated to be
kept up in the colonies and foreign
dependencies, for the last six
months of the year 1792, amounted
to 12,650 rank and file. The num-
bers allotted to the estimate for
the current year, for the same fo-
reign service, amount to 20,416.

The numbers maintained in the
foreign possessions newly annexed
to the Crown, amounted, for the
last year, to 18,200 rank and file;
and they are for the current year
12,600. It is observable, that
this last number is almost exactly
the same numerical force as was
spread over the whole colonies and
foreign possessions of the Crown of
Great Britain previous to the war.

It may be further remarked,
that in the estimates for the year

1816, these newly acquired possessions bore the proportion of two-thirds to the force employed in the old colonies; but in the estimates for the current year, the force in the former is intended to be 12,600, and in the latter 20,416; so that the force in the former is relatively somewhat more reduced than in the latter.

A charge of 5,000*l.* in the regimental contingencies (page 13) for repairs at the Horse-guards, including the salary of the surveyor, belongs properly to the army services; but all expenses of that kind should in future be carried on under the direction of the Board of Works, by which regulation the office and salary of a separate surveyor for this department will be rendered unnecessary. The present surveyor appears to have been appointed by the Secretary at War, and his salary fixed in the manner recommended by the Commissioners of Military Inquiry, in their 8th Report, p. 165 and 166.

STAFF.

P. 14 (No. 2.)

The expenses of the staff exhibit a considerable saving.

The total expense of the staff for Great Britain, as originally estimated in 1816, was . . 66,411

For Ireland, in Irish currency 48,040

In the present estimate, it stands for Great Britain at 39,630

For Ireland, in Irish currency 24,406

In the staff upon foreign stations, the reduction seems to be carried to a still greater extent; and your committee notice with much satisfaction, that the Governors resident at Ceylon and the Cape of Good Hope, and the resi-

dent Lieutenant-governor at Gibraltar, are no longer included in the estimate for the staff pay of their military rank, their civil appointments in time of peace being considered adequate to the support of their respective situations.

Your committee cannot leave the subject of governments abroad, thus incidentally brought before them, without expressing a wish that some means may be devised for rendering the foreign possessions of the British empire more efficient towards defraying the expenses of their own military protection, since their value to the parent state must be greatly diminished by their continuing a lasting drain on its resources.

The subject here adverted to may well deserve the attention of the House hereafter; but the papers and information before your Committee are not at present sufficiently ample to afford the means of pursuing such an inquiry, during the present session, to any useful result; they content themselves, therefore, with giving a very short general summary of the documents which the Colonial Office at present affords, so far as relates to the dependencies acquired during the late war.

It appears from these, that the revenue of Malta, with its dependencies, for the year 1815, amounted in sterling money to 114,126*l.* and that the expenditure for 1816 consisting principally of what are denominated salaries and pensions on fixed establishments, amounted to 60,119*l.*

The funds in the Ionian islands under the immediate administration of Great Britain, in July 1815, left a favourable balance of 20,650*l.*

Expense

Expenses are stated in this return as being incurred in the island of Zante, by building a mole, by the continuation of an aqueduct, and in the making roads.

The revenues of the Mauritius for the year 1814, including those of the isle of Bourbon (since restored to France by the treaty of peace) gave 206,860*l.*; and the charges for the same islands amounted to 119,900*l.*

There being no later return for the Mauritius, in the Colonial Office, it will be proper that orders should be sent out to the governor of this, as well as of every other foreign possession, to render more accurate information with regard to the several heads of income and charge in each respectively.

The military expenditure of the islands of Mauritius, Bourbon, and their dependencies, for the same year, 1814, amounted to 186,912*l.*

The revenue, and other receipts, of the island of Ceylon, during the year 1815, including also a balance in hand, amounted to 640,444*l.* and the expenditure to 647,848*l.*, a very large proportion of which expenditure was incurred for the military establishments of the island, the whole of which, with the exception of the King's pay of the European troops, is defrayed out of the civil revenue. The native troops, at the period of this return, are stated to have amounted to about 5,000 rank and file.

The revenue of the Cape of Good Hope, for the year 1815, was 229,495*l.*, and the expenditure 234,832*l.*, including the pay of a native corps.

Total Staff in Great Britain, Jersey, Guernsey, and Ireland: Appointments in the years 1815, 217—1816, 111—and 1817, 100. Foreign Staff in 1815, 329; in 1816, 141; in 1817, 111.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS.

The detailed particulars of the public departments, printed by order of the House in the present session (No. 73.) led to an inquiry into the necessity of keeping the office of Commander-in-Chief at its full establishment, under the circumstances of so large a reduction in the numbers of the army; in which it appeared to your committee, that no decrease of business in that office has yet taken place, the multiplicity of correspondence, of applications and references, having been, in fact, for the present, materially augmented. Some retrenchment may reasonably be expected in the number of persons employed, whenever this temporary pressure of business shall cease, and when the military establishments shall have been settled upon the basis of a permanent peace.

The salary of the Secretary of the Commander-in-Chief was fixed, in conformity to those of the Under Secretaries of State, at 2,000*l.* with an augmentation of one-fourth after three years of service; which your committee submit to the House as being too rapid a scale of advance to be followed in any future appointment in any of those departments. And they further submit, as an improvement in this arrangement, that the augmented rate of allowance should not commence till after the expiration of seven years' service.

DEPARTMENTS OF THE ADJUTANT
GENERAL AND OF THE QUAR-
TER-MASTER-GENERAL AT HEAD-
QUARTERS.

Your committee have ascertained that a considerable reduction has been made in both of these branches of the military establishment.

The charge of the Adjutant-General's Department appears to have been,

In the year 1815	. 10,383 <i>l</i> .
1816	. 9,528 <i>l</i> .

And the estimate for the present year is 8,309*l*. ; being a diminution of 2,074*l*. as compared with the year 1815.

The charge in the department of the Quarter-Master-General appears to have been,

In the year 1815	. 8,695 <i>l</i> .
1816	. 9,849 <i>l</i> .

And the estimate for the present year is, 5,981*l*. ; being a diminution of 3,868*l*. since the reduction of the army. Your committee have had the further satisfaction to find, by a comparison of the present establishment of this office with that of 1792, that the number of persons now employed exceeds only by one, the number borne on the establishment of 1792.

PAY OFFICE.

In the Paymaster-General's department, the business has in some respects necessarily increased by the cessation of the war, which occasions a very considerable augmentation of the number of claimants for half-pay, and other retired allowances ; and which may, for a

considerable time, in a great degree counterbalance the decrease of expense which would otherwise be occasioned by a reduction of establishment, or a diminution of the magnitude of the annual accounts.

The Deputy and Assistant-Deputy Paymasters-General abroad are intended to be abolished during peace, and the duties of paying the troops on foreign stations are to devolve upon the Commissariat Department : the saving of expense upon this head will be, for the present year, as compared with the last, 8,528*l*. which is the difference between the actual reduction of the expense of this branch of the department, and the allowances granted according to a regulation of 12th July, 1816, fixing the rate of such allowances. These allowances amount to one-fourth of the pay of those Deputies who received 3*l*. or 2*l*. per day, and to one-third to all Deputies who received 1*l*. 10*s*. and to assistants (in all cases) to one-fourth of their pay ; which allowances, considering the great trust and responsibility imposed on those officers, your committee do not think unreasonable.

Your committee observe, that many of the clerks who have been added during the war for conducting the increased business of this department, have been admitted as temporary or extra clerks, without being put upon the establishment ; in consequence of which, no permanent expense can be thrown upon the public, whenever the diminution of business will allow a reduction in the number of the persons employed.

WAR OFFICE.

On directing their attention to the official establishment of the War Office, your committee could not avoid remarking several articles, which, although sanctioned by the estimates of former years, appear to them to call for observation.

The extra allowances made to clerks for preparing the annual estimates seem unfit to be continued, as the duty performed constitutes a part of the regular and ordinary business of this office.

The number of messengers is also very large, amounting to 29, several of whom receive above 100*l.* a year.

But your committee wish particularly to observe on the retired allowances possessed by two clerks in this office on account of their having filled the situation, in succession, of Private Secretary to former Secretaries at War, by authority from those Secretaries at War themselves, when they ceased to fill that office. Such allowances are certainly unusual, if not without example; and therefore, on account of the precedent, wholly unfit to be continued, more especially as those two individuals still retain their situation in the office.

Your committee observe that these two cases have been remarked upon in the 6th Report of the Commissioners of Military Inquiry, pp. 293 and 294; and the practice of making such grants has been discontinued in pursuance of the suggestions contained in that Report.

Your committee conceive, that in any future appointment to the office of Deputy Secretary at War,

a salary of 1,500*l.* per annum, with an increase of 500*l.* a year, after a continuance in his office of 10 years, will be sufficient; and they also venture to recommend 1,000*l.* as a proper salary for the first and principal clerks.

In addition to the establishment of this department, which, including 19,526*l.* the charge of the branches employed in the examination of accounts for the period in arrear, amounts to 60,802*l.*; the compensations and retired allowances, enumerated in p. 67, and forming the sum of 6,771*l.* must be regarded as a very large burden incidental to the charge of this office.

Your committee, however, have considerable satisfaction in contrasting the state of the current accounts of this office with that of the period when the Committee on Public Expenditure, in the year 1811, noticed "the disordered and disgraceful state in which the accounts of this great branch of public expenditure has been for so many years suffered to remain." In the current accounts the arrear is inconsiderable, and by the more modern and judicious arrangement, a considerable portion of the establishment had been transferred (without any interruption of the current business) to the examination of the periods in arrear; by which means nearly the whole of the outstanding accounts from the year 1784 to the year 1797 have been settled; and the committee have reason to expect that the settlement of those now outstanding for the period between the years 1797 and 1810 will take place with as much expedition

petition as the difficulty of investigating accounts which have remained so long unexamined will permit.

The hours of attendance are stated to be from 10 to 4, as they are in the Pay Office.

The number of persons employed in examining accounts in the War Office, and the charges arising therefrom, in the several years from 1813 to 1817, appear by annexed papers.

MEDICINES, &c.

The charge of medicines and surgical materials in Great Britain and Ireland amounted, for the year 1816, to 60,266*l.* which is reduced in the current year to 26,466*l.*

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

P. 25. (No. 5.)

Your committee would not have thought it requisite to make any remark on the estimate for pay and contingent allowances to volunteer corps of yeomanry, were they not desirous of bearing their testimony to the great utility and importance of that species of force, for the maintenance of order and protection of property; supported as it is by a comparatively small expense, and calculated to keep alive the ancient spirit of the nation, in the quarter where it is most desirable and most useful. They, therefore, highly approve of the addition of 1*l.* to each individual of this body, the allowances having been previously reduced from 4*l.* a year to 2*l.*

TROOPS IN FRANCE.

It does not appear to your committee that their duty calls on them

to enter into any detail respecting the army stationed in France.

The estimate points out a diminution of the expense: the number of this army will soon be reduced by a fifth, viz. from 30,000 to 24,000 men; and it is understood that all practicable retrenchments are now making in every thing not essential to the well-being of the troops.

Your committee have great satisfaction in stating, that no part of the charges of this force have hitherto fallen on this country; and they are enabled to add a confident and well-grounded expectation, that the whole will continue to be defrayed out of the sums contributed by the Government of France, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, of 20th of November, 1815; in addition to the 15 millions of francs (1,000,000*l.* sterling) recently bestowed by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent on the gallant army which conquered at Waterloo, and captured Paris.

REGIMENTS IN THE EAST INDIES.

The troops serving within the territorial possessions of the East India Company do not fall under the consideration of your committee, as the whole expense is borne by the company; but, with regard to the recruiting service, for which a charge appears in the estimates of 17,824*l.* clearly inadequate to cover the expenses, it appears that an arrangement has been made for the payment; and the computed charge for recruits transferred to the Company's service, from the year 1799 to 1815, is credited to government in the account

count with the East India Company, presented to the House on the 28th of May, 1816, as follows :—

Principal, partly esti- mated	} 410,000
Interest]	125,000
<hr/>	
£535,000	

Two regiments of dragoons, and five battalions of foot, are under orders to return, which will reduce the amount of force stationed in the territorial possessions of the East India Company to very nearly the number of 20,000, provided for by the charter. Every expense belonging to these troops will be borne by the Company up to the period of their landing, when a reduction of numbers to the extent of these regiments and battalions will take place; so that no charge can fall on the public beyond the pay and allowances requisite for the short period of effecting that reduction.

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE.

P. 32. (No. 9.)

In the Royal Military College every thing seems to be conducted in a manner honorable to those who are in authority, and on a plan conducive to the good education of all classes resorting to it for instruction. Your committee cannot, however, but question the expediency of continuing this establishment on its present extensive scale. They most heartily join in the feelings which would induce Parliament to provide for the orphan children of those gallant men who have sacrificed their lives in the service of their country; and also for the children of meritorious officers now actually serving; but if the whole number at

present on the establishment are to be provided with commissions, it must unavoidably operate nearly to the exclusion of all other classes from the army; and your committee submit, whether such a system would not be in direct variance from what has hitherto been practised in this kingdom; and whether it might not justly be considered as inconsistent with the spirit of our constitution. But if these young men cannot be promoted, it is almost superfluous to remark on the inexpediency and eventual cruelty of educating them for stations which they are not likely to fill, and of encouraging hopes that must be disappointed.

Some reductions of expense have already taken place; among which your committee cannot but notice, the voluntary relinquishment of his table allowance by the distinguished officer at the head of the establishment, accompanied at the same time by a statement, that although an accession of property rendered it unnecessary for him to receive any longer this allowance, he wished to be understood as by no means considering it improper to be continued to any officer who might be his successor. Some other reductions may probably still be made, independently of lowering the number of young persons who receive eleemosynary education; and it well deserves consideration, whether, with regard to the senior branch, for which an entirely separate establishment is maintained at Farnham, some additional contribution might not be reasonably demanded from the officers who desire to receive the benefits of the mode of instruction there afforded. The whole

whole sum now paid is no more than thirty guineas per annum for each officer admitted, and it is stated that the present applications for admission are much more numerous than it is possible to comply with.

It may further merit consideration, whether in time of peace it would not be advantageous to increase the rate of payment to be required from the third class of junior students, who now contribute 100*l.* each, while the numbers of the other two classes are reduced: and, perhaps, to give somewhat more of a civil character to the education of the place. By these means, great numbers of young persons, best adapted by their station in the country to lead the armies of a free people, may be drawn to the college, in consequence of a mode of education uniting the advantages of our public schools with the qualifications that are considered necessary for the military profession. In this manner the college may be made to pay the greater part, at least, of its own expenses, and become, during peace, a much lighter burden upon the resources of the country. Whenever war shall unhappily return, temporary alterations may easily be effected suited to the existing state of things.

The rate of expense, according to the present estimates, supposing the numbers to be full, appears to be for each student in the senior branch (besides the thirty guineas paid by himself) about 117*l.* a year; and for each student in the junior branch about 43*l.*; but if the salaries of the officers are divided between both departments

in the proportion of their respective numbers, an addition must be made of 15*l.* nearly to each student: and if the pay of the gentlemen cadets is not deducted, which, although it may be carried to another department, is still a charge on the public (as those young gentlemen, but for the purposes of education, would not be received at so early an age) 45*l.* more will be added to the cost of each individual, giving on the whole an annual disbursement from the public, for each student in the senior department, of 132*l.* and for each student in the junior department, of 103*l.*

It appears, by a return made from the college, that the whole expense in the

Year 1816 amounted to	33,819 <i>l.</i>
And the estimate of this	
year is	28,155

Making a diminution of 5,664*l.*

ARMY PAY OF GENERAL OFFICERS.

In proceeding to remark on this and several of the subsequent heads of the estimate, your committee think it necessary, in the first instance, to press upon the serious attention of the House, the amount of the allowances of the army which have reference to remuneration for past services, with a view to their reconsideration prospectively; and to observe upon the very great proportion which these allowances, amounting nearly to 2,400,000*l.* bear to 6,682,000*l.* the gross sum proposed to be voted in the present year for the support of the military establishment of the country.

The excess of expense to the public,

public, occasioned by assigning a special rate of pay to general officers, which was first granted from the 25th of June, 1814, must be estimated for the current year at 83,000*l.* being the difference between the amount of regimental pay or half-pay, to which they would have been entitled if this unattached allowance had not been granted, and the total sum of 179,044*l.* proposed to be voted for the current year under this head: the arrangement which created this charge appears to have arisen in the circumstance of a protracted war, during which the establishment of regiments became burdened by officers who had risen to the rank of general, and who, when necessarily replaced by effective field-officers, became entitled to an equivalent for their regimental commissions, until they should be promoted respectively to the command of regiments. So far the arrangement appears to have been suggested by a necessity of upholding the efficiency of the service, and of affording some remuneration to general officers more suitable to their rank than the mere half-pay of the regimental commissions, which, in many instances of long standing and meritorious services, seems to have been the only provision for enabling them to support their station in the service. But your committee are of opinion, that the liberality of Parliament was carried beyond what was requisite to satisfy either the claims of justice, or the efficiency of the military service, when an unattached pay progressively increasing for the three classes of major-general, lieutenant-general, and general,

was granted indiscriminately to all who, by successive brevets, had attained those ranks respectively, without having been appointed to the command of regiments.

The aggregate expense of this system has appeared to be such, as to lead your committee to inquire how far the public could be protected from its progressive increase in proportion to future promotions, by any change in the existing regulation, which might at the same time effect the gradual reduction of the present charge to a more moderate scale of expense, without breaking faith towards the individuals to whom this provision has been granted. Your committee have great satisfaction in being enabled to state to the House, as the result of their inquiries on this head, that it is in the contemplation of the proper department, to modify the whole system, by providing that this unattached pay, instead of accruing to all who may be promoted to the rank of general-officer, shall henceforward be granted to a fixed and limited number only; to which number the present list will be gradually reduced, either by casualties, or by the officers now receiving this provision being appointed to the command of regiments. Your committee trust that they shall be enabled on some future occasion to bring before the House the particulars of the proposed arrangement; and that it will then be found to be such as on the one hand to satisfy the expectations which have been held out to them, of its ultimately effecting a very large, though gradual, reduction in the amount of this charge; and on the other, to remove

remove one great objection to the present system—that of placing the advisers of the crown, with respect to military promotion, in the painful alternative, either of withholding brevets, which the claims and efficiency of the service might render expedient, or of subjecting the country on every occasion of such a brevet to a very considerable addition to the expense of its military establishments.

GARRISONS.

The estimate for 1817 is less than for 1816, in consequence of some vacant appointments not having been, and not being intended, to be filled up; such as a barrack-master general for Scotland, a garrison surgeon at Edinburgh, and some other small reductions on the establishment of the home garrisons.

In the garrisons in North America, &c. various appointments are not continued in 1817; such as garrison-surgeons and barrack-masters, which have ceased to exist on their former footing.

The Irish garrisons vary but little.

The charge for 1817 is also effected, by a day's pay less than in 1816 for leap year.

Upon carrying back the comparison of this head of charge to the year 1792, it appears that the difference in favour of the present year is between 15,000*l.* and 16,000*l.*

FULL PAY FOR RETIRED OFFICERS, &c.

Almost all the persons provided for in this estimate were officers, who, from wounds or infirmities

contracted on duty, were incapable of active service. The several corps to which they belonged were composed of soldiers nearly of the same description; and by the letters of service for raising the veteran or invalid corps (principally by a call of Chelsea pensioners), the officers were promised full pay on disbandment. These invalid corps were indeed rather looked upon as honourable situations of retirement for the veteran officers.

Some of these officers, however, were placed on the retired list, from actual incapacity for any further military duties.

The promotion of the officers of veteran and invalid corps did not go on by brevet.

HALF PAY, AND MILITARY ALLOWANCES.

The proportion of charge in the present estimate, under the head of half pay, arising from the increased grant in June, 1814, may be reckoned at about 105,000*l.* for the British establishment: but no exact estimate for the Irish establishment can be given, without waiting for a return from Ireland; the amount of that increase may in the mean time be supposed about 10,000*l.*

FOREIGN HALF PAY.

The half pay and reduced allowances to officers of disbanded foreign corps have not been granted upon any uniform system which strictly applies to all; but some sort of principle has prevailed, to give them only to those whose service has extended to the period of five years, or whose regiments had so long served.

In

In some cases half-pay has been allowed to those officers only who had been removed from other regiments in which they would have been entitled thereto; the other officers receiving, as disbanding money, from 3 months to 3 years' full pay, according to the periods of their service.

It is to be observed, that the following classes of officers are allowed to continue their half-pay (contrary to the general rules of service;) viz.

Officers receiving (under the Act 52d Geo. III. cap. 151) pensions for the loss of limbs.

Officers of the King's German Legion, or Foreign Veteran Battalion, serving in the Hanoverian army.

Officers of the Brunswick Corps, serving in the forces organized for the protection of the dominions of the Duke of Brunswick.

Swiss officers serving in the Swiss Militia.

Officers receiving pensions from the French government, provided no service be attached to such pensions.

IN AND OUT - PENSIONERS OF CHELSEA AND KILMAINHAM HOSPITALS.

The increase of the current year, as compared with the last, is not quite 2,600*l.* for the in-pensioners; but with regard to the amount of the expense attending the out-pensioners, it is necessary to enter into considerable detail, embracing the information which your committee have called for from the Paymaster-general and the Secretary at War.

The Paymaster-general of the Forces holds, in virtue of his pa-

tent, the office of Treasurer of Chelsea-hospital; he presides at the boards which are held for the general business of the hospital, and attends the examination of the discharged soldiers, who claim, either in respect of service or disability, to be placed upon the pension-list.

By the act of 46th Geo. III. cap. 69, persons are enabled to enlist in the infantry for a limited period of seven years, to re-enlist for a second period of seven years, and for a third period of seven years. In the cavalry, for a first period of ten years, a second of seven years, and a third of seven years. They are to be entitled to their discharge at the expiration of any of these periods of service; and further to such pensions for their services as his Majesty, by any regulations to be framed in consequence of that act, might think proper to allow.

By a warrant of his Majesty, of 7th of October 1806, a pension of 5*d.* per day was granted to privates who were discharged, and had served their second period, viz. fourteen years in the infantry, or seventeen years in the cavalry; and a pension of 1*s.* per day to those who were discharged, and had served their third period, viz. twenty-one years in the infantry, or twenty-four years in the cavalry.

In addition to these rates of pension, all those who have served beyond the third period are to be allowed one halfpenny a day for every year of service after the expiration of the third period; and in estimating the number of years' service for the pension, two years' service in the East or West Indies reckon

reckon as three years in any other part of the world.

And subsequently, all soldiers present at the battle of Waterloo have been allowed, by direction of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, 31st July, 1815, to add two years to their term of service, in estimating the amount of pension which they claim.

There is also a regulation, by which soldiers discharged during their second or third period of service, are to be allowed, upon registering their names in a book to be kept at Chelsea, to reckon every two years which may elapse after such discharge as equivalent to one of service; and to receive the pension belonging to the second or third period of service at the expiration of the number of years which are requisite to complete such periods of service respectively; such discharged soldiers being liable to be called upon to attend musters, and in time of war to be enrolled, if found fit for service, in the veteran battalions. Each year from the period of the first discharge till that of being called again into service is termed a year of absence.

This regulation appears to have been so little understood by the soldiers, that up to the 9th of December last only 277 men had tendered their names, with the view of obtaining pensions under that regulation; and none had proposed to take advantage of it until the regulation was communicated to commanding officers, who were directed to promulgate it in their respective regiments.

The only other important alteration which was introduced by the new system of 1806, in re-

spect of pension, was a considerable increase given by the same regulations in consequence of disability or infirmity contracted in service; as to which the Commissioners of Chelsea-hospital, in fixing the amount of pensions, exercise their discretion, within certain prescribed limits, according to the nature of the case. But as to the pension for service, no discretion is vested in them; it having been the intention of the act, and the regulations founded upon it, to confer upon the soldier a legal claim to a pension according to a fixed rate, and of which he cannot be deprived, except by the sentence of a general court martial.

The amount of the out-pension at Chelsea-hospital in 1806, six months previous to the new regulations being adopted, was, upon 21,177 men, 179,902*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* per annum: six months subsequent to the regulations, on 20,805 men, the amount was 347,662*l.* 10*s.*

In 1793, previous to the war, the Chelsea out-pension was, upon 20,594 men, 157,759*l.* 15*s.* and the annual amount of it at Michaelmas 1816 was, upon 51,591 men,* 884,639*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* The pension at Kilmainham in 1793 was, upon 2,550 men, 16,160*l.*; it was at Michaelmas 1816, upon 10,031 men, 159,870*l.* making, with 884,659*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* the amount of the Chelsea pension, 1,044,529*l.*

* Upon the disbandment after the seven years war, in 1763, the number of Chelsea pensioners was 14,700, and the amount of their pensions 112,800*l.* per annum. After the American war, the numbers were 20,700, and the amount of pension about 100,000*l.*

1,044,529*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, or an increase in both establishments, occasioned by the war, of 870,710*l.* per annum.

But this is not the whole of the increase occasioned by the arrangement of 1806; because, by the provisions of that arrangement, a much larger proportion of discharged soldiers are added to the pension list than were formerly admitted.

The average rate of pension, previous to the regulations of 1806, was little more than 5*d.* per man per day; whereas, under those regulations, it is nearly one shilling.

Great as the charge has been which the measure of 1806 has thrown upon the country, your committee are decidedly of opinion, that no step should be taken to reduce the rate of pension as then fixed with respect to those who are at present serving or receiving such pensions, but that they should all be continued under certain regulations.

ROYAL MILITARY ASYLUM.

Of the Royal Military Asylum, your committee need say no more, than to express their general approbation of the economical manner in which it is conducted, annexing the substance of the regulations for its government, and a return of casualties since it was established in 1803.

The object of the institution is to provide for the "maintenance and education of a certain number of orphan and other children of non-commissioned officers and privates" of the army.

In the selection of the children for admission, preference is given,

1st. To orphans.

2d. To those whose fathers have been killed, or have died on foreign service.

3. To those who have lost their mothers, and whose fathers are absent on duty abroad.

4th. To those whose fathers are ordered on foreign service, or whose parents have other children to maintain.

COMPASSIONATE LIST, BOUNTY-WARRANTS, AND PENSIONS FOR WOUNDS.

Allowances to officers wounded on service have been put upon a new footing since the battle of Waterloo, in 1815, which entails considerable expense upon the public, without keeping that exact gradation which was apparently the object of it. The inequality of the rule will be evident by putting the case of any young officer, so far disabled in action as to be absolutely incapable of following his profession, who must remain with the pension attached to the rank which he held when he received his wounds, while another of the same age and rank, less injured by wounds, and therefore not incapable of continuing in the service, receives an augmentation of his pension according to the successive steps which he may obtain in rank. There seems to be neither reason nor equality in such a regulation as this; which requires to be reconsidered, and perhaps to be replaced upon its former footing.

The grants of bounty warrants are to be understood as generally confined to the relatives of officers killed in action, or dying from the immediate effects of fatigue on service,

service, and to the relatives of general officers who have no other adequate provision; leaving it of course still open for a departure from this rule in any individual instance of particular service, or of extreme distress. The circumstances of each case are stated to the Secretary of War, by whom the same are particularly investigated; and then submitted for the royal consideration.

COMPASSIONATE LIST.

Proper Objects of the Bounty.

Children of officers of the regular army who die on full pay.

Officers of fencible regiments who die on full pay and out of Great Britain.

Officers of the invalids.

Medical officers.

Staff officers, including commissaries.

Chaplains.

Officers who have been reduced upon half-pay.

Widows and children of adjutants of local militia, who had previously served as officers in the line.

Widows of officers not strictly entitled to the regular widows' pension have been placed on this list in cases of particular distress, and in some special cases at rates equivalent to such pension.

These allowances are in no case considered as being granted for life, but only so long as the persons enjoying them shall remain unprovided for: the daughters of officers, therefore, cease to receive them upon their marriage, unless they can show in a satisfactory manner that they are still in circumstances to require the assistance of the bounty, when they are sometimes allowed to retain it by

special permission to that effect. The sons (except in cases of mental or bodily infirmities which incapacitate them from obtaining a livelihood) are struck off the list on their attaining the age of 18 years, or on receiving commissions in the army or navy, or other appointments which may be supposed to afford a provision; and generally, all persons on the list are discontinued, on its being known at the War Office, that they are provided for in a way to render this assistance unnecessary. Persons ceasing to apply for payment for four years are also considered as giving up their claim to the allowance, and their names are struck off the list.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES.

Upon the allowances, compensations, and emoluments, in the nature of superannuations, a considerable increase is to be observed. The amount for 1816 was 17,964*l.*; it is for this year 25,566*l.*; which is accounted for by the various reductions which have been made in some of the departments, giving claims for compensations or retired allowances to several of those who have been hitherto employed in effective service; but this head of charge should always be watched with peculiar attention, and the injunction contained in the letter from the treasury of 1816, which prescribes that no allowance should be made within any department whatever to its own officers, without the special sanction of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, should in no case whatever be departed from.

EXCHEQUER FEES.

On the charge of 35,000*l.* for
Exchequer

Exchequer fees, your committee observe, with much satisfaction, that in consequence of the late generous and patriotic conduct of the distinguished nobleman who holds the only tellership which continued upon the old establishment, the whole produce of these fees, with some inconsiderable exceptions, is now applicable to national purposes, in conformity to the act for regulating the Exchequer, 23d of the King, c. 83, without affording an increase of emolument to any individual whatever.

March 29, 1817.

PROPOSALS AND REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO THE ROYAL NAVY,

Made by the Board of Admiralty, and sanctioned by Order in Council, commencing on the 1st of January, 1817.

It was to be expected, that, in the natural lapse of time, and still more, in the course of a war, unexampled in duration and extent, several variations from the old establishment and regulations of the Royal Navy should have taken place; and however desirable, in the view either of economy or convenience, uniformity may be, it was impossible, during the pressure of war, either to resist the innovations which temporary circumstances rendered necessary, or to remould and reform the whole system of the navy, on every occasion on which some alteration was introduced.

We therefore find that there have grown up several inconsistencies, irregularities, and departures from the establishments, in particular articles of the naval

service; and as we think this a favourable occasion for endeavouring to remedy the inconvenience which arises from these irregularities, and to reduce, as far as may be practicable, the several alterations which have been made into one regular system, we most humbly beg leave to submit to your Royal Highness's gracious consideration, the following observations and propositions, on the rates, classification, and schemes of arming and manning His Majesty's ships; and on the pay, ratings, and numbers of the officers and warrant and petty and non-commissioned officers of His Majesty's navy and royal marines, and the establishment of the companies of Royal Marine Artillery.

1. The postships of the Royal Navy are divided into six rates; besides which, there are the various classes of sloops, fire-ships, bombs, gun-vessels, yachts, schooners, and cutters.

The division of the Royal Navy into six rates took place in the reign of King Charles I. and at that period, and for several years afterwards these rates included the whole navy.

In the reign of King Charles II. the sloops, fire-ships, and yachts, became distinguished from the sixth rates.

At the Revolution, the rates comprised nearly the same classes of ships which they now do, except that the sixth rate still included vessels of a less number of guns than twenty.

In the year 1719, a general establishment for building was adopted, which however was not long adhered to.

In 1733, a scheme of manning
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and armament, or gunning, as it was called, was proposed, but the latter was not adopted till the year 1742, and then only as applying to ships built since 1740.

In 1742, the ships of 20 guns, of the sixth rate, were increased to 24 guns, and 160 men, and this became for the time the lowest class of post ships.

In the year 1745, the Board of Admiralty, observing that “no establishment or regulation for building ships had been made since the year 1719, which had been long discontinued; that instead thereof ships had been built according to particular schemes and proportions, without any standard or uniformity; those of the same rate being often of unequal dimensions, so that the stores and furniture of one would not suit another of the same class,—a matter of infinite inconvenience in point of service, as well as the occasion of extravagance in point of expense, &c. ;” directed a committee composed of all flag officers unemployed, of the commissioners of the navy who were sea officers, under the presidency of Sir John Norris, admiral of the fleet, and assisted by all the master shipwrights, to consider and propose proper establishments of guns, men, scantling of timbers, masts, yards, stores, &c. for each rate and class of his Majesty’s ships.

This committee made a very elaborate report, and the whole was established by Order in Council of his Majesty King George the Second, on the 27th of March, 1746.

By this establishment, the rates, armament, and complements, of

his Majesty’s ships, were to be as follow:—

Rate.	Guns.	Men.
1.	100.	850 or 750
2.	90.	750 or 660
3.	{ 80.	650 or 600
	{ 70.	520 or 460
4.	{ 60.	420 or 380
	{ 50.	350 or 280
5.	44.	280 or 220
6.	24.	160 or 149

On this establishment, it is to be observed, that the eighty-gun ships of the third rate were on three decks, and that the Board of Admiralty had suggested to the committee the expediency of substituting, instead of this class, ships of 74 guns on two decks and a half, a proposition decidedly rejected by the committee.

A short period only had however elapsed, before a very striking instance was given, both of the way in which innovations are produced, and of the impossibility of resisting them; for, on the 3d of February, 1747, the Board of Admiralty acquainted his Majesty, that, “the French ship *Invincible*, lately captured, was found to be larger than his Majesty’s ships of 90 guns and 750 men; and suggested that this ship, and all other prizes of the like class, and also his Majesty’s ships of 90 guns, when reduced to two decks and a half, and 74 guns, should be allowed a complement of 700 men;” and, in 1748, the Board represented to the King in Council, that the ships built according to the representations of the committee had not answered their expectations, and they therefore prayed his Majesty’s sanction for departing, in new ships about
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to be built, from the forms and models so lately established. This was granted, but not till the Board had been called upon by the Council, to lay before it a particular account of the alterations and variations designed; and on several subsequent occasions, in which the said establishment was departed from, a minute detail of the variation was previously submitted for the approbation of his Majesty in Council. We the rather notice these particulars, to show the difficulty, not to say the impossibility, of establishing and adhering to any fixed forms or scantlings; on which subject we shall humbly submit some observations hereafter.

Subsequent to this period, the introduction of 74's appears to have gradually advanced, as well as of frigates of intermediate sizes, between 44's and 24's; for, in the latter end of the reign of King George the Second, the classes of ships comprised in the several rates were as follow, viz.:—

Rate.	Guns.	Rate.	Guns.
1st	100	5th	44
2d	90		38
3d	80		36
	74		32
	70	6th	30
	64		28
4th	60		24
	50		20

During the whole of the period herein before referred to, and indeed down to 1793, the force of the ships was stated from the actual number of guns they really carried; but the introduction of carronades, which began partially in 1779, and which was finally adopted, on the present extended scale in the Navy, during the

course of the first revolutionary war, increased the armament of the vessels, as they were found able to carry a greater number of carronades than the guns in whose stead they were adopted, so that the real force of the ships has no longer corresponded with their nominal force; and that principle of variation being once admitted, ships have since that time received denominations as to their number of guns, often, we believe, capriciously, and in one or two classes only, of the whole navy, agreeing with their real force.

A few instances will show your Royal Highness the inconsistencies into which this deviation from the old rules of the service has led.

The Caledonia, rated 120 guns, carries 120 guns; while the Hibernia, a ship of nearly the same dimensions, which carries exactly the same number of guns, is rated only at 110 guns, being a less number by 4 than that at which the San Joseph is rated, though the former has in fact 10 guns more than the latter.

All ships of the second rate, though rated at 98, carry upwards of 100 guns, and they have all more guns than the St. George, a first rate, which is rated and carries 100 guns; and they ought all, therefore, according to the established regulations, to be included in the first rate, and there are in fact no real second rates, viz. three-deckers of between 90 and 100 guns, at present existing in the Royal Navy, in a sea-going condition.

In the third rate, some of the ships rated at 80 guns carry near 90, and others rated at 74 carry 80 guns, but the majority of the

same denomination carry 74, and this is one of the very few cases in which the real and nominal force agree.

In the fourth rate, of the ships rated at 50 guns, one class (that on two decks) carries 58 guns, another, (that on one deck) carries 60 and upwards.

In the fifth rate there are three frigates rated as of 44 guns, namely, the *Sybille*, taken from the French, which carries 48 guns; the *Lavinia*, built after her, which carries 50 guns; and the late American ship *President*, the guns mounted in which, on the day of her capture, were 54, besides one 42-pounder howitzer.

The frigates rated at 40 guns carry 50, and those rated at 38 carry 46 and upwards.

The majority of those rated at 36 guns carry 44, and some of those rated at 32 carry 46 and 48, being more than others that are rated at 38 and 36.

Similar differences between the real and the nominal amount of force exist in the fifth rate, but it is unnecessary to specify the details.

We trust we shall be excused for observing to your Royal Highness that it is wholly unworthy the character of the Royal Navy of this kingdom to maintain this system, which, though introduced by the accidental cause we have mentioned, and without any design of deception, yet may give occasion to foreign nations to accuse us of misrepresentation, when we state that a British frigate of 38 guns has taken a foreign frigate of 44, when, in fact, the British frigate was of equal, if not superior, force.

We therefore humbly recommend, that your Royal Highness will be pleased to order, that the rule for stating the force of his Majesty's ships, which prevailed prior to the year 1793, and which, in fact, never was formally abrogated, should be revived and established; and that in future all his Majesty's ships should be rated at the number of guns and carronades which they actually carry, on their decks, quarter-decks, and fore-castles.

The recurrence to this ancient practice of the service will render some slight variation, as to the limits of some of the rates themselves, necessary; and we therefore humbly propose that the following scale of rates be adopted:—

The first rate to include all 3-deckers, inasmuch as all sea-going ships of that description carry 100 guns and upwards.

The second rate to include all ships of 80 guns and upwards, on two decks.

The third rate to include all ships of 70 or upwards, and less than 80 guns.

The fourth rate to include all ships of 50 and upwards, but less than 70 guns.

The fifth rate to include all ships from 36 to 50 guns.

The sixth rate to include all ships from 24 to 36 guns.

Though, by this regulation, no ship under 24 guns will hereafter be a post ship, we, in pursuance of the ancient practice of the service, propose that all his Majesty's yachts should be considered as post ships, and should be rated, one as a second rate, and the rest as third rates, but with such complements as we may appoint.

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It is necessary here to state, that several sloops are now rated as post ships, and *vice versâ*; and as much inconvenience to the officer who may be in the command of such ships, and much embarrassment to the public service, would arise, if the present rates of such vessels were to be immediately changed, we submit to your Royal Highness that with regard to any such vessels at present in commission, this new arrangement shall not apply, until they shall be paid off, or until some other favourable opportunity shall offer of placing them in their proper rates.

Your Royal Highness will observe that this scheme differs very little from that which is grown into use, and still less from the last establishment (that of 1746), which had the sanction of his Majesty in council, and which, strictly speaking, may be said to be still in force.

We beg leave farther to represent to your Royal Highness that the schemes for manning his Majesty's ships have, from the causes already referred to with regard to the guns, and from accidental and temporary circumstances, become so very various, that though these six rates were originally intended to regulate, amongst other things, the amount of the respective complements, there exist at this moment not fewer than twenty-nine different scales for manning the ships of the six rates; the third rate alone including seven distinct complements.

It were to be desired that all this variety and irregularity should be abolished; but we have seen that, so early as the year 1746,

there were sixteen schemes of manning, and the variety of ships which have been from time to time built or captured (which though they may fall under the same rate, are yet of very different sizes) render perfect uniformity in this point impracticable: we are, however, of opinion, on mature consideration, that this variety may be very much diminished, and that two, and, in one or two rates, three schemes of manning, in each rate, will be found to answer all the practical purposes of the service, and will tend to simplify the system, by thus reducing the twenty-nine schemes before-mentioned to thirteen or fourteen.

We therefore submit for your Royal Highness's gracious approbation, that the following be the only complements to be hereafter allowed to the several rates of his Majesty's ships and vessels:

- 1st rate.. 900, 850, or 800 men.
- 2d do. 700, or 650 ..
- 3d do. 650, or 600 ..
- 4th do. 450, or 350 ..
- 5th do. 300, or 280 ..
- 6th do... 175, 145, or 125 ..

Of sloops there are so many varieties, that we cannot propose to reduce the eight schemes of complement now existing, to less than four, as follow: viz. sloops, 135, 125, 95, and 75 men.

Brigs (not sloops), cutters, schooners, and bombs, we propose to reduce from ten schemes of complement to two, namely, 60 or 50 men.

And we also propose that for small craft, which may not require so large a complement as 50 men, we may be authorized to assign such a complement as we may deem necessary.

As there are no longer any regular fire-ships in the service, we humbly propose that, whenever it may become necessary to fit out any vessels of this description, we may be authorized to assign to them such complement of officers and men, together with the pay of such rates or class, as the size of the vessel employed, or the nature of the particular service, may render expedient.

We farther propose, that when it shall be necessary to fit out troop ships, we may be authorized to assign to them such rates and complements as may seem proper.

By these regulations, the forty-seven varieties of complements, now in use in the navy, will be reduced to twenty.

Having thus submitted to your Royal Highness our propositions for the rating and manning of his Majesty's ships, it is next our duty to state, that the varieties in the rigging and arming of ships are at least as great as in the complements; the irregularities and deviation from establishment in regard to the form, scantling, &c. of his Majesty's ships, complained of in 1745, are now exceedingly increased, and are of much more serious injury to the service, both in respect to convenience and economy.

It is obvious that the extra expense of providing masts, yards, rigging, and stores of various dimensions, for ships of the same actual force, must be very great; because, if not required for the particular ship for which they were originally prepared, they are either useless, or must be altered to fit some other ship at a great loss of labour, time, and materials;

and, in case of accidents or urgency, this variety disables the ships from assisting each other: and it requires that the naval arsenals, both at home and abroad, should be furnished, at a very great expense, with a much larger assortment of these articles than would be necessary if they could be made more generally applicable to the probable wants of the whole fleet; this will be explained to your Royal Highness more forcibly, by stating that for the single class of ships of the third rate, called 74's, there were lately not less than seven different schemes of masting and rigging; and that a squadron might be composed of seven vessels of this force, which could not properly employ one another's spare spars and sails, and for each of which the dockyards must necessarily have their individual gear.

It is in this particular, above all others, that uniformity would be desirable; but the experience of what occurred immediately after the establishment of 1746, as we have already stated, and of all subsequent times, shows that it is unfortunately unattainable: the varieties of ships produced by successive endeavours to improve our models, and still more the great numbers of ships of all classes which have been captured from the various enemies with whom we have been at war, render any scheme of perfect uniformity impracticable; but this very important subject has not escaped our consideration. We have, in conjunction with the Navy Board, and with the assistance of a committee of experienced sea officers, taken measures for pushing this principle

principle of uniformity as far as the nature of the case would allow; and though the experience of what has occurred on former occasions dissuades us from attempting to establish, by the approbation and sanction of your Royal Highness in council, minute details of the forms, lines, and scantlings of his Majesty's ships, we have the satisfaction of stating that a system of gradual assimilation is in progress, and that we hope to see it every day become of more extensive operation, and more practical utility; and we beg leave humbly to assure your Royal Highness, that no efforts shall be spared, on our parts, to prevent, for the future, any unnecessary deviation from the establishments of rigging and armament, and to reduce the variations which exist to as few classes as possible.

We now proceed to submit to your Royal Highness some observations on the present mode of calculating the sea pay of the officers and men of the fleet.

The pay of all classes in the service is liable to certain permanent deductions; and the pay of commissioned and warrant officers receives a very considerable addition, under the name of compensation; so that the rates of pay stated in the pay table would give a very erroneous idea of the actual pay of the several classes.

But the present system is also liable to other and more serious objections; for these deductions, from causes which are now become obsolete, affect the different classes very irregularly.

Thus, the deduction from the pay of a post captain, commanding a ship whose complement may be 215 men, is 4s. 3d. per mensem,

while that from the pay of all captains of smaller post ships, and of all commanders, is 4s. 9d.; while the deduction from the still inferior pay of lieutenants and masters is as much as from 6s. to 7s. 9d. per mensem; and while the deductions from a gunner or boatswain of a first rate are 5s. 9d. those from the carpenter are 6s.

The addition, by way of compensation, has an equally irregular effect.

The nominal pay of post captains is the same for all ships of the same rate; and yet in the third rate, for instance, for which the pay in the pay-table is 23l. 2s. per mensem; there are, in fact, six rates of pay, namely:—

£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
40	5	9	} per mensem.	42	0	9
43	15	9		45	10	0
47	5	9		48	3	3

It is obvious that this system of alternate deduction and addition, must occasion great trouble and perplexity in the mode of keeping the accounts; and it will be evident to your Royal Highness, how inconvenient this confusion must be, to all branches of the public service concerned with this matter; which is increased by the circumstance that the officers who are entitled to draw for their pay by bill, can only draw for their personal pay, from which the several deductions are previously to be made.

We have therefore humbly to recommend to your Royal Highness, that the pay of all officers and men be established, and stated in the pay-table, at a rate of net pay, including all additions, and exclusive of all deductions.

The effect of this, as it regards all classes, will be stated in a general pay-table, hereunto annexed; but

NOT COMMANDING-IN-CHIEF.

	Present.				Proposed.
	£.	s.	d.		£.
Net pay and compensation	881	5	1	Net pay 3l. per diem.	1,095

CAPTAINS.

1st Rate.....	812	6	0	}	1st Rate.....	800
	800	18	6			
2d do.	683	6	9	}	2d do.	700
3d do.	626	18	3			
	615	10	9	}	3d do.	600
	592	15	9			
	570	0	9	}	4th do.	500
	547	5	9			
	524	10	9	}	5th do.	400
4th do.	461	9	3			
	438	13	3	}	6th do.	350
	404	9	9			
	393	4	2	}		
5th do.	368	10	9			
	357	3	3	}		
	345	15	9			
	334	8	3	}		
	323	0	9			
	300	5	9	}		
6th do.	306	18	9			
	295	11	3	}		
	284	3	6			

COMMANDERS.

Various rates from 368 10 9	}	300
to 261 8 9			

LIEUTENANTS.

Commanding....	148	12	8	}	150
	130	12	4			
1st line bat. ship if of 7 years' standing }	119	4	2			

MASTERS.

Of the fleet....	172	12	8	}	.....	200
1st Rate	172	12	8		1st Rate.....	170
2d do.	159	2	2	}	2d do.....	160
3d do.	145	11	11		3d do.....	150

MASTERS.

MASTERS.

	Present,				Proposed.
	£.	s.	d.		£.
4th do.	132	1	8	.....	140
5th do.	118	11	2	.....	120
6th do.	105	11	10	.....	110
Sloop	91	10	8	.....	100

SECOND MASTERS.

In 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th rates.	67	9	3	.....	70
In 5th rates & infra	67	9	3	.....	60

PURSEERS.

1st Rate	72	4	4	}	1st Rate.	70
2d do.	65	15	9		2d do.	60
3d do.	59	6	10	}	3d do.	60
4th and 5th do..	52	18	3		4th and 5th Rate.....	55
6th, and sloop..	49	13	10		6th, and Sloop.	50

CHAPLAINS.

In all Rates	160	8	8	160
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MATES WHO HAVE PASSED.

1st Rate	48	17	9	}	1st Rate.	60
2d do.	44	19	6		2d do.	55
3d do.	42	9	6	}	3d do.	55
4th do.	37	10	0		4th do.	50
In all others....	33	4	10		In all others.....	45

MIDSHIPMEN PASSED.

1st Rate	35	3	10	}	1st Rate	50
2d do. ..	31	18	9		2d and 3d Rate.....	45
3d do.	30	6	2	}	In all others.....	40
4th do.	27	17	3			
All others.....	25	8	3			

CLERKS.

1st Rate	55	14	7	}	1st Rate	60
2d do.	51	19	10		2d do.	55
3d do.	48	11	2		3d do.	55
4th do.	41	12	8		4th do.	50
All others.....	37	3	1		5th and 6th.....	45

SCHOOLMASTERS.

1st Rate	35	3	10	}		
2d do.	31	18	9			
3d do	30	6	2			
4th do.	27	17	3			
All others.....	25	8	5			

Your Royal Highness will observe in this table, that the most considerable alteration has been made in favour of flag officers; and of this we beg to submit the following explanations:—

So long ago as the year 1693,

the pay of the flag officers of the fleet was at a higher rate than it stands at present, as will appear on a comparison of the rates established by order in council of the 2d of February of that year, with the present rates:—

	1693.			1816.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	
Admiral of the Fleet	6	0	0	5	10	0	} per diem
Admiral	4	0	0	3	17	0	
Vice-Admiral	3	0	0	2	15	0	
Rear-Admiral	2	0	0	1	18	6	

By the said order in council of the 22d of February, 1693, the extravagant number of servants previously allowed was abolished, and the officers were allowed a number equal to the present establishment.

This wise and salutary plan,

which excluded all profits on servants, and assigned an adequate rate of net pay, was, however, rescinded by order in council of the 13th April, 1700, which established the following rates of pay, and re-established the following extravagant number of servants:

	Pay.			Servants.
	£.	s.	d.	
Admiral of the Fleet	5	0	0	50
Admiral	3	10	0	30
Vice-Admiral	2	10	0	20
Rear-Admiral	1	15	0	15

And at these rates the pay of the flag-officers remained for upwards of 100 years, till, by order in council of the 23d of April, 1806, his Majesty was pleased, by a small addition, to make the pay what it at present is.

It is not easy to determine what, besides their pay, were the advantages that these officers made by their servants; but it is computed, in the appendix to the order in council of the 22d of February, 1693, that the annual saving to the public, on the reduction of the servants, would be on each officer as follows:—

	l.	s.	d.
Adm. of the Fleet	1,014	0	0
Admiral	557	14	0

Vice-Admiral	304	4	0
Rear-Admiral	177	9	0

Whether, therefore, these sums, or the sums granted as compensation, be added to the officers pay, it will be apparent to your Royal Highness, that even on the reduced scale of 1700, the pecuniary advantages of the Flag-Officers of His Majesty's fleet were as great as they were for upwards of 100 years after, and very inconsiderably, if at all, less than they are at present.

We trust, therefore, on a review of these circumstances, and of the increase which has taken place in other parts of his Majesty's service, that the addition which we propose, of about 150*l.* per annum

annum to Admirals, 190*l.* to Vice-Admirals, and 210*l.* to Rear-Admirals, will appear moderate and reasonable.

With regard to the latter class of officers, it is worthy of observation, that if a Rear-Admiral should be serving in a first-rate, his whole pay and compensation amount to but 881*l.* while his Captain, who lives at his table, and who is comparatively at no expense, receives 812*l.* We notice this, not as thinking the Captain's pay too much, as we propose only to reduce it to 800*l.* but as showing the inconsistency of the present arrangement, and the necessity of making some addition to the Flag Officers' pay.

Your Royal Highness will further observe, that we propose to double the allowance at present granted to Commanders-in-Chief under the name of table money. We have done so, on a very mature consideration of the situation of officers of this rank; and your Royal Highness must be aware of the necessity of this increase from the circumstance which has been frequently communicated to your Royal Highness, of the difficulty of inducing officers to accept, particularly in times of peace, this

command; and your Royal Highness is aware, that of six Rear-Admirals, now commanding in chief on foreign stations, we have been obliged to recommend that your Royal Highness should be pleased to allow three of them to receive the emoluments of full Admirals; and we should, if the measure we now propose should not be adopted, find ourselves under the necessity of proposing to your Royal Highness to extend the same indulgence to the other three Commanders-in-Chief abroad.

We have also not been inattentive to the rates of pay allowed to the officers of his Majesty's army of corresponding ranks. A military Commander of the Forces, whose situation is equivalent to that of a Naval Commander in Chief, receives, in addition to his unattached pay, 9*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* per diem; whereas we propose for the Naval Commander in Chief, an addition of only 3*l.* per diem; but as the sea pay of the Flag-Officer is greater than the unattached pay of the General, it is necessary, in order to give your Royal Highness a fair comparative view of the subject, to submit the following table:—

<i>Commander in Chief.</i>		<i>Commander of the Forces.</i>	
ADMIRAL.		GENERAL.	
Sea pay	£ 1,835	Unattached pay . .	£ 693 10 0
As Commander in Chief .	1,095	As Com. of Forces .	3,458 0 0
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	2,930		4,151 10 0
VICE-ADMIRAL.		LIEUT.-GENERAL.	
Sea pay	1,460	Unattached pay . .	593 0 0
As Commander in Chief .	1,095	As Com. of Forces .	3,458 0 0
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	2,555		4,051 0 0
			REAR-

REAR-ADMIRAL.

Sea pay	1,095
As Commander in Chief .	1,095
	<hr/>
	£ 2,190

MAJOR-GENERAL.

Unattached pay . .	446	0	0
As Com. of Forces .	3,458	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£ 3,904	0	0

Your Royal Highness will perceive that the military officer's pay is, in every case, nearly one-third more than we propose for the naval officer; but there are circumstances peculiar to the naval service, which, in our opinion, counterbalances this superiority.

In times of peace, the number of officers having commissions as Commanders of the Forces, is, we are informed, very limited; whereas the Commanders in Chief in the navy are almost as numerous in peace as in war: the number, therefore, of flag officers who will receive this advantage, and the narrower sphere of their duties, must be set off against the inferiority of the sum received.

In times of war, the number of Commanders in Chief, if not greater, is not less than that of Commanders of the Forces; but we consider that the superior advantages to be derived by the flag-officer, from his share of prize-money, will generally afford an ample compensation for the proposed inferiority of pay.

Upon the whole, then, of this part of the subject, we trust that your Royal Highness will agree with us, that the proposed rates of pay are just and equitable, as well with regard to the officers themselves, as to the public service at large; and that, however they may nominally differ from the rates allowed to the general officers of his Majesty's army, they will be found to establish as much real

equality as the difference of the two services will admit of.

We have presumed to enter into this comparison with the pay of the army, lest it should be hereafter supposed that we had not considered the subject in reference to the military service; and in order to show that, although a perfect similarity cannot be effected, we have endeavoured, as far as it was possible, to attain a real equality, and to obviate any complaint on the score of the apparent differences.

We think it farther necessary to propose, that Commanders in Chief shall be entitled to this allowance of 3*l.* per diem, only while their flags are flying within the limits of their respective stations, and that, on their decease, or during their absence, the said sum shall be paid, as is at present provided, to the officer who shall succeed to the command, if he be a flag-officer; but if he be a captain, that he shall be entitled to the sum of 1*l.* per diem during the time his broad pendant may be hoisted as commanding on the station.

And we farther propose that all flag-officers, whether Commanders in Chief or otherwise, shall be allowed to draw for the whole of their sea pay and Commander in Chief's pay, without distinction.

We farther beg leave to observe to your Royal Highness, that the advance of three months' pay now made to flag-officers on their appoint-

appointments, is so inadequate to the necessary expenses of their outfit, that it has been the custom to grant to flag-officers, appointed Commanders in Chief on certain foreign stations, an imprest of one thousand pounds by way of outfit; but we think it better that, in lieu of this occasional indulgence, every flag-officer appointed to the chief command of a foreign station, should be entitled to receive an advance of six months' pay, which would obviate the necessity of the occasional imprests we have hitherto been obliged to grant.

The pay of the other classes has been computed, not with the view to any considerable increase, but at a sum calculated upon the averages of the present rates.

It will at first sight appear, that the pay proposed for captains and commanders is considerably more than the average of the several rates now established: but upon this we have to observe, that the difference is not so great as it appears to be:—

Firstly, because the lower rates of pay are attached to ships of the smallest size in each rate, which are gradually disappearing from the navy, so that the majority of officers now employed receive the higher rates of pay; and, secondly, because captains of flag ships are at present entitled to a considerable addition of pay, which comes highest in the lowest rates, and in peace affects a greater proportional number than in war. The value of this addition we have calculated in the amount of net pay before proposed, and these circumstances render the real increase of expense on this head less than it appears.

We have proposed that the pay

of first lieutenants of line of battle ships shall be increased from 119*l.* 3*d.* per annum, which they now receive in common with all other lieutenants, to 150*l.* per annum, provided they shall be of 7 years' standing; and we recommend that lieutenants commanding small vessels should be raised to the same sum; and we trust that your Royal Highness, considering the important duties and high responsibility of the senior lieutenants of line of battle ships, will be of opinion that this increase is just and expedient: and the increase of 18*l.* per annum to lieutenants, who may be subjected to the expense and responsibility of a separate command, will not, we trust, be considered too great.

It is proper to add, that the principle of making a distinction in favour of first lieutenants of line of battle ships, is not new to the service: as at the first establishment of half-pay, in 1693, this advantage was extended only to first lieutenants of 1*st*, 2*d*, and 3*d* rates, who had served as such for a certain period.

Though we have, for the reasons before stated, recommended the discontinuance of the flag pay to captains, (having provided an equivalent thereof), we do not propose to withdraw the allowance of 6*d.* per diem allowed to lieutenants of flag ships, by his Majesty's order in Council of the 21*st* September, 1796, having made no addition to the pay of this class of officers, except in the single instance before mentioned.

We have farther taken into consideration the pay at present granted to young gentlemen, mates or midshipmen in his Majesty's service,

service, the average of which (for it varies in different rates) may be taken of the former at 40*l.* and of the latter at 30*l.* per annum. We do not feel it necessary to propose an increase of these rates, with regard to young men who have not passed their examination for lieutenants; but we hope that your Royal Highness will be of opinion, that those who have passed that examination, and whose responsibility and usefulness, as well as their necessary expenses, increase with their age, are entitled to a higher remuneration than young persons who may have lately entered his Majesty's service. We have therefore proposed an increase of pay to all mates and midshipmen who may have passed their examination.

We have to observe that the examination of young gentlemen for the rank of lieutenant has been lately made more strict, as, besides the usual examination in seamanship before naval officers, they are now obliged to undergo another at the naval college, as to their proficiency in the scientific branches of their profession. We cannot but hope that the distinction, which we propose to establish in favour of those who shall have passed the prescribed examination (though it is new in his Majesty's service), cannot be considered as objectionable, either in principle or amount.

Connected with this part of the subject is the situation of schoolmaster on board his Majesty's ships, which is at present so ill remunerated (namely, at the same rate as the youngest midshipmen) that it is found impossible to ob-

tain persons of adequate acquirements to undertake this duty; we, however, feel so strongly the importance of the subject of the education of young persons in his Majesty's navy, as well of the upper ranks as the lower, that we have felt ourselves bound to propose to your Royal Highness an addition to the pay of the schoolmasters in the fleet: and if the chaplain should perform the duty of schoolmaster, which is highly desirable, we propose that he should receive the pay of both offices: this regulation, we think, will have the double tendency of improving both the condition and respectability of the chaplain and the schoolmaster; and our desire to encourage persons to undertake this duty induces us to recommend that the allowance to the schoolmaster, called Queen Ann's bounty, of 20*l.* per annum, and the remuneration to the chaplain for the tuition of young gentlemen granted by the Orders in Council of the 4th of March, 1812, and 4th March, 1813, may be continued.

The arrangements respecting warrant and petty officers we shall state distinctly in subsequent sections of this memorial.

* * * *

The rest of this section relates to the drawing of bills for pay, &c.

III. This section, after stating the inconsistencies in the existing rates of pay for boatswains, gunners, carpenters, &c. proposes the following regulations:—

1st. The pay and superannuation of gunners, boatswains, and carpenters, shall be regulated by the same scale.

2d. The

2d. The scale of sea and ordinary pay shall be as follows, in the several rates :

Rate.....1st 2d 3d 4th 5th 4th et infra.

Sea£100 90 80 70 65 60

Ordinary£ 85 75 65 55 50 45

3d. The above pay is to be personal and net, and no deductions or compensations are to be made.

4th. No warrant officer shall be appointed to a fifth rate, who shall not have served two years either in a sixth rate or sloop in commission; nor to a fourth rate, who shall not have served two years in a fifth rate in commission: nor to a third rate, who shall not have served one year in a fourth rate in commission, or three years in a fourth or fifth rate in commission; nor to a second rate, who shall not have served two years in a third rate in commission; nor to a first rate, who shall not have served three years in a second or third rate in commission. But as in times of peace it may not be possible for officers to serve the required time in commission, we submit, that in cases of vacancy, when there happens to be no man who has served the requisite time for an appointment, it may be given to the person who may be, in our opinion, in other respects the best qualified for and entitled to the situation.

5th. In the event of any warrant officer being put out of his ship by her being lost, broken up, or otherwise, he shall be placed as supernumerary in one of his Majesty's ships in ordinary of the same rate, until we may have an

opportunity of giving him another appointment.

6th. The rates of superannuation of warrant officers shall be according to the following scale, formed on a consideration of the total length of service as warrant officer, with the length of service in commission:—

Total Service. Commissioned Service. Pensions.

30 years 20 years.. £ 85

30 15 75

30 10 65

30 5 55

20 20 75

20 15 65

20 10 55

20 5 45

15 15 60

15 10 50

15 5 40

10 10 45

10 5 35

7th. Officers whose length of service may happen not to fall exactly under any of the preceding numbers, shall be pensioned agreeably to the rate which may come nearest to their length of service.

8th. Officers having a shorter period of service than the lowest of the foregoing, shall receive either the pension to which their services would entitle them from Greenwich-hospital, or such other sum, not exceeding 30*l.* per annum, as we, on a view of the individual case, may appoint.

9th. No warrant officer shall reckon as service, either for promotion or superannuation, any time for which he shall not have a certificate of good conduct from the captains or commanders of the ships in which he may have served; and if the certificate should not

not state the good and meritorious conduct of the officer for the specified period, such time is to be disallowed him; but if the warrant officer thinks he has any reason to complain thereof, he may address his complaint to our secretary, for our inquiry and final decision; and in this case, we submit that we be authorized to allow the time or not, as we may judge proper.

If your Royal Highness shall be graciously pleased to sanction the foregoing propositions on this branch of the subject, we shall be enabled to superannuate several hundreds of worn-out and disabled officers, who are at present on the ordinary, and of whom we cannot clear the list (which ought to be effective) with justice and humanity to these old servants of the public, while the present partial and inadequate rates of superannuation exist; but we have farther the satisfaction of stating to your Royal Highness, that this benefit to the naval service will not create any additional expense to the country; as the saving of the cost now incurred for victualing and keeping in full pay so large a number of inefficient persons, will not only compensate the whole additional expense of the arrangement relative to warrant officers, which we thus humbly submit to your Royal Highness's gracious consideration, but will even diminish considerably the expense which, on the peace establishment, may arise from the other propositions which we have submitted.

IV. We now beg leave humbly to represent to your Royal Highness, that having had under con-

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sideration the numbers and ratings of the petty officers of his Majesty's fleet, we have found that there are several useful duties for which no other ratings are provided; while, on the other hand, several ratings are preserved in the table which have become obsolete, and which have no duties now attached to them, and which are now, we have reason to think, given to men whom the several captains think deserving of higher pay, and for whom they have no appropriate ratings.

With a view therefore, of remedying these irregularities, and of giving fair encouragement to that class of men, the petty officers, we humbly submit that your Royal Highness may be pleased to sanction the establishment of the following additional ratings, the effective duties of which are now performed without any corresponding rating:

Admiral's Coxswain,
Coxswain of the Launch,
———— of the Pinnace,
Captain of the Hold,
Yeoman of the Signals,
Cooper's Mate,
———— Crew,
Gunner's Yeoman,
Carpenter's Yeoman,
Captain's Steward,
———— Cook,
Ward or Gun-room Steward.
———— Cook,
Ship's Tailor.

Two of these ratings have been already established by Order in Council; but we have nevertheless included them in the above list, because they are not in the general table of ratings, and in order to lay before your Royal Highness,

Highness, at one view, the whole of this part of the subject :

And we further submit to your Royal Highness, to be pleased to sanction the abolition of the following obsolete or unnecessary ratings :

Yeoman of the Powder-room,

———— of the Sheets,

Quarter-Master's Mates,

Trumpeters,

Gun Smiths,

Midshipman Ordinary,

Coxswain's Mates,

Swabbers,

Ordinary Trumpeter,

Shifter,

Gunner's Tailor.

The expense to be occasioned by the establishment of the former ratings will, after deducting that of the ratings proposed to be abolished, be very inconsiderable ; namely, 3*l.* 2*s.* per mensem in a first rate, and less in proportion in the others ; being in the whole, on one ship of each class in the Royal Navy, only 12*l.* 7*s.* per mensem.

We beg leave farther to state, that, as the carpenters and carpenters' mates and carpenters' crews find their own tools, and are alone, of all the classes in the ship, liable to this species of extra expence ; and as we have, by late regulations, given much more activity and employment to this description of persons, to the great benefit of the service, we propose to allow to each person of these classes 7*s.* per mensem, in addition to their pay, to supply themselves with tools ; this allowance being, in fact, already, though partially, made.

V. We now beg leave to call the attention of your Royal Highness

to the companies of Royal Marine Artillery.

These companies were formed, one at each division, in the year 1804, for the purpose, in the first instance, of supplying the service of his Majesty's bomb-vessels, before that time performed by the Royal Artillery ; but it was also intended that these companies should, particularly in time of peace, be employed at the respective divisions, in drilling the whole of the marines to gunnery.

We are so well satisfied of the great utility of having a considerable body of marines trained to gunnery, that we are induced to recommend that the Royal Marine artillery be increased to eight companies, as well for the purpose of encouraging and training the other marines, as to enable us, on occasions, to embark a certain number of well-trained artillery-men in other of his Majesty's ships as well as in the bombs ; experience having proved the great advantages to be derived to the service from this practice, which has been of late tried to a small extent.

We therefore humbly propose to your Royal Highness, to be pleased to sanction the establishment of eight companies of Royal Marine artillery ; but in order that the whole establishment may not exceed what your Royal Highness has pleased to declare to be a fit peace establishment of marines, we humbly propose to transfer a certain number of officers and men from the ordinary marines to the artillery, and we hereunto subjoin schemes of the establishment of Royal Marines and Royal Marine artillery, respectively, which

which we think proper for the present period, by which the corps will consist of eighty companies, of which eight will be artillery.

This measure, which will give great efficiency to the corps of marines, and, to use the expression of the original promoters of the marine artillery; double its utility both ashore and afloat, will be a very inconsiderable, if any, expense to the public; because we have proposed to reduce an equivalent number of ordinary marines, and shall farther submit some reductions in the number of officers attached to the artillery companies: and in time of war, a farther diminution of expense from what it would be under the present system, will, if your Royal Highness shall be pleased to adopt our suggestions, arise from the following circumstances:—

The Royal Artillery, when embarked in bombs, had certain advantages granted to them, in consideration, we presume, of their being taken out of their natural course of shore service: these advantages the Royal Marine Artillery have claimed, and hitherto enjoyed, under, we think, an erroneous construction of his Majesty's Order in Council establishing the pay and allowances of these companies.

It is evident that, however just it was to grant such advantages to the Royal Artillery, when removed from their ordinary duties, it was certainly unnecessary to give them to the Marine Artillery, whose natural course of service it was to embark, and which in fact was formed for this especial purpose. We trust therefore that your Royal Highness will see the

expediency of correcting this error, at this favourite opportunity, when it can be done without any immediate injury to individuals, because at present none of the marine artillery are embarked, nor, according to the original regulations, would they have been embarked, in time of peace: while we therefore propose to continue the increased shore pay, and to encourage the artillery and the corps in general, by doubling the numbers who will receive this increased pay, we think we may fairly propose to abolish the distant and contingent advantage of the extra sea pay, to which in fact we doubt that any other right has hitherto existed, than an erroneous construction of his Majesty's Order in Council.

We therefore propose, that when the royal marine artillery shall embark, the sea pay of all ranks shall bear to their pay ashore the same proportion that the sea pay of the marines in general bears to their shore pay.

For all these purposes herein before-mentioned, we beg leave to subjoin to this memorial a table of the rates of His Majesty's ships, and the force and complements of each rate, and also of the pays, numbers, and ratings of all the officers and men in the fleet, both seamen and marines: and we humbly recommend to your Royal Highness, to be pleased to recal and annul the table now in force under his Majesty's order in council of the 31st December, 1806, and to sanction and establish in lieu thereof, the table hereunto annexed, on which, for the sake of perspicuity and convenience, we have distinguished the several

classes for sharing the produce of seizures, agreeably to your Royal Highness's order in council of the 14th October last.

We now have to submit to your Royal Highness, in order that the funds of the chest and hospital at Greenwich, and of the widows' charity, to which the deductions, herein before proposed to be abolished, are applied, may not suffer by this arrangement, that your Royal Highness may be pleased to direct that the calculated amount of the said deductions, on the number of officers, and men respectively employed, shall be paid over by the Navy Board to the funds of the said institutions, under such regulations and checks as we may think necessary, for ensuring the full and equitable arrangement of this matter between these different branches of the service; which, we have no doubt, can be attained with great convenience to all the offices concerned, and without any increase of establishment, or any expense whatsoever to the public. And, finally, we have to submit that the whole of this arrangement shall be carried into execution from and after the 1st of January next, or as soon after as conveniently may be.

In proposing alterations in the present practice of the naval establishment, so important as those hereinbefore submitted to your Royal Highness, we have thought it right to enter into a detail of the motives and principles by which we have been guided. We have ourselves, in the investigation which has led to this Memorial, found considerable inconvenience from the want of explanation as to

the precise views on which former arrangements were made; and we therefore humbly hope that your Royal Highness will be graciously pleased to excuse the length of detail into which, on the present occasion, we have presumed to enter.

NEW POLICE REPORT.

[Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed July 8, 1817.]

Second Report from the Committee on the Police of the Metropolis: with Extracts from the Minutes of Evidence annexed.

The Committee appointed to inquire into the state of the police of the metropolis, and to report the same, with their observations thereupon, from time to time, to the House, together with the minutes of the evidence taken before them; and who were instructed to report generally upon the execution of the laws relating to the licensing of victuallers; and to whom the several petitions which have been presented to the House in this session of parliament, relating to licensed victuallers, and disorderly houses, were referred, have, pursuant to the order of the House, further inquired into the matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following Report:—

Your committee have examined evidence upon a great variety of subjects as connected with the police of the metropolis, and propose to pursue the plan which has been adopted in the case of the licensing system, by bringing under the consideration of parliament the various and important subjects that

that have been submitted to their investigation, in distinct and separate heads. They have, therefore, thought fit to divide the general question of police, and to lay before the House the result of their inquiries upon two of the most important branches of their investigation.

First, The consideration of the system of parliamentary rewards.

Secondly, That of the establishment of penitentiary prisons.

It appears, that early in the reign of William and Mary, an act was passed for encouraging the apprehension of highwaymen; in which it is enacted, "That all and every person and persons who shall apprehend and take one or more such thieves or robbers, and shall prosecute until he or they shall be convicted of the robbery, such person shall receive from the sheriff of the county where such robbery and conviction shall be made and done, without paying any fee for the same, for every such offender so convicted, the sum of 40*l.* within one month after such conviction and demand made, by tendering a certificate to the said sheriff, under the hand of the judge or justices before whom such felon or felons shall be convicted, certifying the conviction of the same; and also that such felon or felons were taken by the person or persons who claim the reward." This principle was further extended by various acts.

By the 6th and 7th William III. ch. 17, entituled, "An act to prevent counterfeiting and clipping the coin of this kingdom," 40*l.* upon conviction of every person who have counterfeited the coin, or clipping, &c. the same; or shall

bring into the kingdom any clipt or counterfeit coin.

By the 5th Anne, cap. 31, entituled, "An act for the encouraging the discovery and apprehension of housebreakers," 40*l.* upon the conviction of every burglar or housebreaker.

By the 14th Geo. II. cap. 6, intituled, "An act to render the laws more effectual for the preventing the stealing and destroying of sheep and other cattle," 10*l.* upon the conviction of every sheep-stealer, &c.

By the 15th Geo. II. cap. 28, entituled, "An act for the more effectual preventing the counterfeiting the current coin of this kingdom, and the uttering or paying false or counterfeit coin," 40*l.* upon the conviction of any person of treason or felony relating to the coin, upon this act; and 10*l.* upon conviction for counterfeiting copper money.

By the 16th Geo. II. cap. 15, entituled, "An act for the more easy and effectual conviction of offenders found at large within the kingdom of Great Britain, after they have been ordered for transportation, before the expiration of the term for which they were ordered to be transported."

These various acts form a part of the law of the land at the present moment; and the sums of money which are thus paid in the way of encouragement to the apprehension and conviction of offenders has risen from 7,770*l.*, which was the amount in 1798, to that of 18,000*l.* which was paid for the purpose in 1815. Your committee are of opinion that this system of parliamentary rewards for the conviction of offenders is
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of most questionable policy. They have felt it their duty to examine, not only the magistrates of the various police offices in the metropolis, but the officers of the police themselves; and the testimony of many of these persons, as well as of those, with the exception of the Recorder of London, who have had most opportunities of witnessing the effects of this practice is, that the system is most dangerous in itself; that it has produced the worst consequences; and that it cannot be too speedily abandoned. It has been stated to your committee, that it has the tendency, and in some instances has produced the practice of inducing persons to forswear themselves for the lucre of the reward; that, while sometimes the innocent have forfeited their lives, from the cupidity of those who swore them away, to obtain the money which was to be paid on the conviction of the accused; in other cases, substantial justice has not been had, from the suspicion which juries have entertained that the real truth was not spoken, and that the prosecutor or witness on the trial forswore himself for the value of the reward. The odious appellation of blood-money has been given to these rewards; and your committee have found in all quarters an abhorrence to exist against them, which constantly operates as impediments to public justice. Your committee have sought with great anxiety to learn from the various magistrates whom they have examined, if to their knowledge or belief the system was productive of carelessness and inattention on the part of the officers of the police to the conviction of

minor offenders. The answer has been from all, that they did not conceive any such consequence had followed; but, with due deference to the opinion of these persons, your committee cannot avoid remarking, that estimating the conduct of the police officers to be guided by the common interest and motives that govern the actions of mankind, it is impossible that they should not be stimulated into greater activity in cases where that activity was to be rewarded, than in those where it was not; besides, it has been allowed that the pecuniary rewards offered by individuals are great stimulants to the exertions of officers; and it seems reasonable to conclude, that the absence of these rewards would operate in a direct opposite ratio. There can also be no doubt that offenders have been suffered to be trained on in their career of crime from the first offence which made them amenable to the law, though not yet objects of profit, till, step by step, they have been led to the commission of offences for which, on their conviction, the parliamentary reward could be obtained.

Your committee have inquired into the mode in which parliamentary rewards are distributed. At the county assizes they are apportioned by the judge who tries the prisoners, the expenses of the prosecution being first deducted; and though, contrary to the express words of the various Acts of Parliament, considerable demands are made in the nature of fees. In the Midland Circuit, the practice is to deduct first 15s. 6d. for procuring the signature of the judge to the certificate of the conviction, besides a fee taken for the
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under sheriff of two guineas, if the reward is paid within a month. Your committee have reason to believe that even larger demands than these are made in the nature of fees, and that for the prompt payment the under sheriff charges for the four weeks' advance of the money above sixty per cent. Your committee have inquired as to the practice which takes place in the metropolis and the county of Middlesex upon this subject. The Recorder, Sir John Sylvester, distributes the rewards, and apportions them according to the merits of their respective claimants. They examined Mr. Thomas Watson, the clerk to the Recorder, who has told them that prior to receiving that situation, he had learnt from the clerk to Mr. Sergeant Adair, that in his time, as well as in that of Sergeant Glynn's there was considerable emolument arising from the payment of the rewards; that he took that situation without having any thing mentioned by the Recorder concerning these rewards; but that making an application to another person, he received the information that there was eighteen-pence in the pound to be asked for, for the sheriff, and a compliment to himself for his trouble. In respect to that compliment, it is sometimes more and sometimes less; but the witness stated, he was perfectly satisfied with what was given to him, even under the supposition that he was to pay one shilling and six-pence in the pound over to the under sheriff; upon taking the money to the under sheriff, that officer took six-pence in the pound, and returned the witness one shilling. Your committee un-

derstand, the propriety of taking this poundage money rests upon custom, and that this witness received no more than his predecessor. The witness delivered in a paper, which purports to be an account of the rewards which have been paid every sessions, from the month of February, 1813, to February, 1817, and which amount to 11,410*l.*; so that this witness has received the sum of 550*l.*, out of which he has paid the stamps, which are due upon the receipts that are taken from the different persons who receive their share of the rewards. The committee feel it but just to the Recorder to declare, that the witness denies that he is at all privy to this irregularity, or that he ever had any conversation with him on the subject. The Recorder was shown the evidence which was given by his clerk, and denied being acquainted with any part of the transaction which is there detailed; he had however heard, that the under sheriff claimed a fee as well as his own clerk, yet he gives him a larger salary than his predecessors ever did, without having any consideration whatever to his obtaining gratuities or fees, or emoluments of any sort. Your committee wish generally to observe, that this practice of taking poundage money on these rewards, or deducting, under any pretence, any portion of them, in the nature of fees and gratuities, is highly irregular. The acts of Parliament are positive upon this subject; and though it is but fit that the money for the stamps should be deducted from the portion of the reward which is paid, and that if prompt payment is demanded, the person

person who advances the money may have a claim to the discount; yet they cannot but think the demand is exorbitant, and the whole practice liable to great abuse. With respect to the distribution itself, no fixed rule seems to exist; and from evidence which has been submitted to your committee, they have reason to believe, that while in some cases a much larger sum than the exertions of the claimants can warrant is proportioned to them, in others, great partiality is shown, and services, however important, are suffered to go unrewarded.

There is another species of reward which your committee would equally wish to do away with, namely, that which is technically called a Tyburn Ticket, which is an exemption from the service of parish offices in the parish where the felony was committed, and which by the 10th and 11th of William III. chap. 23, is to be given to the apprehender and taker of the felon on his or her conviction. This mode of remuneration has all the bad consequences of the parliamentary rewards by money, as the ticket is generally sold, varying in its price from 12 or 14 to 30 or 40*l.* according to the parish in which the exemption is to arise; and indeed it may be considered in some respects as worse, it having all the effect of a money reward without its name. Your committee think it fit that the officers of the police should have a sufficient salary, ample enough to keep them above the temptation of corruption; and if the rewards be abolished, some arrangement to that effect should take place. That portion of the

reward which it is now the custom to pay for the expenses of the trial to the prosecutor might be continued, and a reasonable allowance made for loss of time to the witnesses. But your committee consider the payments of reward for the discovery and apprehension of criminals to be perfectly unnecessary; and they think the evidence of Mr. Shelton, the clerk of the Arraignment, decisive upon this question, who, from long practice in courts of law, is so fully capable of estimating correctly the difficulties attending on criminal prosecution: he says, speaking of highway robberies, "I should conceive there could be no more difficulty in discovering and apprehending a person charged with highway robbery, where a reward is given, than there would be in the discovery and apprehension of offenders guilty of crime, for which there is no reward."

Your committee remark, that there is no evidence to prove that any difficulties are found in the prosecution of larcenies, or that there is any unwillingness in the injured to seek legal redress. The only impediments that are to be met with upon the general subject of legal prosecutions are of two kinds—1st, The expenses of the prosecution; 2d, The severity of the laws, which often deter men from pursuing the offender to conviction; so that if the parties prosecuting were assisted in their expenses by an allowance, and the witnesses remunerated for loss of time, the public justice of the country would be no more interrupted than under the present practice.

As an illustration of this system
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of assigning rewards for the apprehension of offenders, your committee refer to the practice which, on the evidence of Mr. Barnley, the beadle of St. Andrew's parish, Hatton-garden, and Ely-rents division, takes place in respect of the 10s. which are paid on the apprehension of a vagrant. This witness stated, that he had often seen, when poor people came to the police-office at Hatton-garden to solicit a pass, that the officers will give them 1d. or 2d. and then bring them in and swear that they found them begging, when in fact they never begged at all. The officers are accustomed to swear that they have taken the man who is thus a petitioner for a pass, begging in the street, who is sent for seven days to the house of correction, when the officers get 10s. for their trouble: in other cases, perhaps the man committed is an Irishman or Scotchman, and they cannot pass him; he is often met with again when discharged from prison, again committed, and 10s. more obtained. He was asked if he had ever complained to the magistrates of this practice; his answer was, that he thought it wrong, but he never complained much. A question was put to him, whether any of the vagrants ever remonstrated against the fraud which had been practised on them? and his reply was, that he once was in the office when an individual laid a complaint, and that the magistrates made no answer at all; the officers of the police were very indignant at his interference, and threatened him with turning him out of the office. It was his opinion, from long experience, that police officers would

rather apprehend beggars than thieves; and he says that the practice is so general, that there is an expression which describes it, and it is called "getting an easy ten shillings."

The opinion of the police-officers themselves on this subject is of no small importance, and your committee refer to the remarks which some of the most intelligent of them have made in strong and forcible language, and which present a true picture of the danger and evil of this system.

John Townshend, one of the officers of Bow-street, who has held that situation for 34 years, says, "I have with every attention that man could bestow, watched the conduct of various persons who have given evidence against their fellow creatures for life and death, not only at the Old Bailey, but on the circuits; I consider officers as dangerous creatures, who have it frequently in their power (no question about it) to turn the scale, when the beam is level, to the other side: he swears against the wretched man at the bar; and why? because that thing—nature says, profit—is in the scale; and melancholy to relate, but I cannot help being perfectly satisfied, that has been the means of convicting many and many a man. I have always been of opinion, that an officer is a dangerous subject to the community."

John Lavender, of the Queen-square office, remarks upon these rewards, "That it is a subject which he always declines, if he can, as no officer can go into the box as a witness with any comfort to himself."

John Vickery, of Bow-street, says,

says, " That he knows the public opinion is against the officers entirely, in consequence of that reward by act of parliament; and the officers are not considered by the public so respectable as they would be if those rewards were done away."

Mr. Philip Holdsworth, the Upper Marshal of the city of London, informed your committee, that he has witnessed officers giving evidence against criminals, swear hard against the prisoner, evidently for the sake of the reward; that he knew one instance where a wrong person was convicted in consequence, and has heard of several more.

Thomas Shelton, Esq. clerk of the Sessions of Oyer and Terminer, and Gaol delivery, at the Old Bailey, for London and Middlesex, and who has held that situation for 33 years, upon a question being put to him, if he observed the effect of the rewards on the evidence that is tendered in court, informed your committee, that it appeared evident to him that witnesses have been desirous to obtain them; that he believes officers sometimes get briefs given to counsel, when there are difficulties in the case, which shows an anxiety for conviction; and that not only among officers but among other witnesses: he considers probable that these rewards warp the minds of witnesses, and occasion stronger testimony on points that are doubtful, than would otherwise be given; he adds also, that he has witnessed cases where it has happened that persons were put on trial for the crime of highway robbery, when on examination, although property had been

taken from the person, there has appeared little or no reason for the offence being so laid, except for the sake of the reward on conviction. But it is not only that the system of rewards stimulate witnesses to forswear themselves, in order to obtain them: facts have recently come before the public that prove the existence of conspiracies which have been formed by a police officer and others, in order to induce people to commit crimes for the purpose of swearing away their lives and obtaining the reward on their conviction. The different magistrates who have been examined on this subject have denied all belief that this crime has been often committed; but your committee wish to observe, that where the temptation is so strong as that which the reward offers to the cupidity of police officers, as well as to that of all other men, the crime not having been before proved, is no evidence of its non-existence! and they feel themselves further obliged to remark, that the first report of the police committee in 1816 had hardly been issued from the press, containing, as it did, the praises of the magistrates of their own officers, as well as their positive denial of its being possible they could be affected by any temptation to sacrifice the public interests to their own, when Vaughan, of the Bow-street office, was tried and cast for death for the crime above mentioned. And also, that in the last summer no less than three other persons were sentenced to a capital punishment for similar offences, on three different charges. To what extent the evil has extended, and how many innocent persons

persons have suffered, and what crimes have been planned and perpetrated, or how far the increase of offences may be caused by those whose duty it is to lessen their number, by the early apprehension of offenders, your committee have no means of ascertaining; but in closing this subject they are decidedly of opinion, that the system, as it is, cannot be too soon abandoned, as furnishing allurements to officers to betray their trust—to witnesses to break their oaths, as bringing punishment on the innocent, and affording encouragement to a description of persons of all others, the most fatal to the peace and well-being of society—those who go about to ensnare the guiltless and entrap the unwary, who, whilst they shut their eyes to the commission of offences for which no reward can be obtained, plan the perpetration of crimes, in order to profit by the conviction of the perpetrator.

The next head of inquiry upon which your committee wish particularly to direct the attention of the house, is that of the propriety of establishing a penitentiary system for the juvenile offenders in the metropolis. Your committee refer generally to the minutes of evidence that they have taken on this subject, but more particularly to that of Mr. Crauford, the secretary to the society, of which the object is to enquire into the causes of juvenile delinquency. It appears, then, from the evidence of that respectable and intelligent person, that from a minute investigation of the subject, there are several thousand boys in the metropolis who are engaged in the

commission of crime: that the causes of this deplorable evil are to be traced to the improper and criminal conduct of parents, the want of education, the deficiency of employment, the violation of the Sabbath, the prevailing habit of gambling in the public streets, which, to the disgrace of our police, is practised daily with impunity; all these may be considered as the principal incitements to crime impelled into extraordinary action, during the last few years, by an increased population, and by the distress among the lower orders, arising from the want of employment. To these causes may be added the existence of flash houses and brothels, almost exclusively set apart for children of both sexes; and, lastly, to the bad management of the prisons, which, instead of correcting the criminal delinquent by discipline, are schools and academies of vice, which corrupt and vitiate their wretched inmates, and throw them back upon society confirmed in every bad habit.

Your committee refer to the evidence given by Mr. Bennet (a member) as to the present situation of the different gaols of this metropolis, as to that of Mr. Crauford and Mr. Poynder; and they feel that they should be wanting in their duty if they did not protest against the present system; and if they failed to state it to be their opinion that the gaols are a discredit to those who have the direction of them, and who are deeply amenable to the public for the evils that arise from their mismanagement. If these prisons are too small for the number of criminals who are confined therein,
it

it is the duty of those who can alone bring forward such subjects, to propose to their respective county or city, or to parliament, the necessity of a prison upon a more enlarged plan; but it is many years since this subject has been first agitated, and yet even now, in all the prisons, offenders of different characters and stages of crime are mixed indiscriminately together. It is scarcely possible to devise a system better calculated to vitiate and corrupt than the mode in which juvenile offenders are thus confined: a number of boys are mixed indiscriminately together, from eight to sixteen or eighteen years of age, exhibiting a great variety of character; and differing in degrees of guilt, the tried and untried, and the first offender with the hardened convict.

Your committee have anxiously sought for information as to the number of juvenile delinquents who are annually committed to the different prisons in the metropolis, and find that in 1813, the number committed to Newgate, under the age of sixteen, were 43 boys and 19 girls, total 62; of whom one was of nine, three of ten, and three of eleven years of age.—In 1814, there were 89 boys and nine girls, total 98; of whom four were of nine, eight of ten, and twelve of eleven years of age.—In 1815, there were 76 boys and 12 girls, total 88, of whom three were of ten, and eight of eleven years of age.—In 1816, there were 134 boys and 12 girls, total 146, of whom one was of nine, three were of ten, and five of eleven years of age.

In the other prisons of the me-

tropolis, the ages of the prisoners were not then taken; but your committee are enabled to state, that in the year 1816, there were confined in the different prisons 1,683 persons under 20 years of age, &c. viz.

	Males.	Females.
In Newgate	429	— 85
Clerkenwell	399	— 92
Cold-bath-fields . .	221	— 50
Horsemonger-lane .	67	— 18
Tothill-fields	208	— 76
Giltspur-treet . . .	33	— 5
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1357	326

Total 1,683

Of seventeen years and under.

In Newgate	247	— 48
Clerkenwell	289	— 91
Cold-bath-fields . .	292	— 83
Horsemonger-lane .	55	— 10
Tothill-fields	117	— 29
Giltspur-street . .	17	— 3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,017	264

Total 1,281

And of seventeen years and under for felonies alone:

In Newgate	247	— 48
Clerkenwell	228	— 43
Cold-bath-fields . .	135	— 37
Horsemonger-lane .	44	— 9
Tothill-fields	117	— 29
Giltspur-street . .	17	— 3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	788	169

Total—957

Your committee remark, that the greater part of these juvenile offenders, some of them infants of 9, 10, and 11 years of age, are mixed indiscriminately with old offenders of all ages, and all of them with boys of the ages of 15 or

or 16, many of whom have been long practised in the commission of various acts of fraud and crime. No one but those who have witnessed such painful exhibitions can be aware of the pleasure which the older thieves take in corrupting those who have just entered into vicious courses, by the detail of their exploits, the narrative of hair-breadth escapes, the teaching of technical phrases; all of which are great allurements to a youthful mind, being the amusements of the idle, and the resources of the desperate, and serving to enliven the solitude of a prison. In order to demonstrate to what an extent this intermixture of children is carried, your committee observe, that there were in Newgate, at the commencement of the last sessions, 84 boys of all ages and offences confined together; that in the New Prison, Clerkenwell, there were, in May last, 13 boys confined, four of whom awaited their trial for burglary; three were committed for tossing up in the street, and would be brought up and dismissed the next sessions; one was confined for an assault; and five were committed for re-examination; they were all confined in one yard with the men. It is scarcely possible that a boy should be a single day in this prison without being contaminated; and yet it is usual for boys to remain there until within a few days of their trial, a period sometimes of three or four weeks. At the House of Correction, Cold-bath-fields, there were then 45 boys confined, who were committed for misdemeanours, for felony, and for re-examination; the untried and convicted were confined in one

yard. A boy was lately committed and confined in this yard for offering for sale some numbers of a work without having a license; he was there three months; the only son of poor but reputable parents.

From a return which your committee have received, it appears that in the New Prison, Clerkenwell, where young and old are all mixed indiscriminately together, and where no classification according to age or offences exists, 399 boys under twenty were confined for felonies in the last year, of whom one was of nine, two were of ten, seven of 11, 14 of 12, and 32 of 13 years of age; 17 were for misdemeanours, 15 for riots, and 51 for assaults: of which last, three were of the ages of 11, 12, and 13. That of females, 92 were for felonies, 6 for misdemeanours, 10 for riots, and 29 for assaults.

Your committee observe, that it is in evidence that the most numerous class of delinquents are street pilferers, and for stealing privately from the person; many of those boys may be considered as just commencing a course of crime: the mode then in which they are treated on apprehension has a natural tendency to encourage them in vicious practices, for the greater number found guilty of the former offence are usually committed for a short time to prison, sometimes severely flogged, and then, without a shilling in their pockets, turned loose upon the world more hardened in character than ever. The condition of these poor children is of all others the most deplorable; numbers are brought up to thieve as a trade,

trade, are driven into the streets every morning, and dare not return home without plunder; others are orphans, or completely abandoned by their parents, who subsist by begging or pilfering, and at night sleep under the sheds, in the streets, and in the market places; when in prison no one visits them, nor do they seem to possess one friend in the world: they are occasionally treated with severity, sometimes sentenced to be flogged, a practice than which nothing tends more to harden and degrade. Mr. Crauford, who gives this affecting picture of the sufferings of these children, adds, that many of them occasionally apply to the members of the committee soliciting their advice and relief, and declaring their readiness to shun their former connexions, and to abandon their vicious pursuits; but how are they to subsist; without friends or character, who will give them employment? Without temporary aid, where can they procure food? He is convinced that many are driven to renew their depredations by their necessities. He knows of several instances in which this has been the case; and thus some boys are no sooner discharged from prison than they are again brought in, for in reality a prison is their only home.

Your committee decline entering at present, even if at any time it was within their province, into a minute investigation of the various causes which have produced this alarming increase of juvenile delinquency: many of these causes may be traced to the peculiar situation of the country, and to the existence of poverty and distress,

unknown perhaps at any former period to the same extent. But your committee hope, that with the gradual removal of these causes, their lamentable effects will cease. They, however, feel it their duty to observe, that as long as any means are left untried, by which those who are of authority in a state have it in their power to check, indirectly by education, or the enforcement of religious observances, the tendency which the young and the ignorant have to fall into the snares and allurements which are spread around them by the guilty and designing, the delinquencies that are the result of such neglect are not wholly to be set to the account of the offenders; and that till all the ways are exhausted by which the morals and manners of a people can be reformed, the existence of an augmented state of crime, the severity of the penal law, and the frequency of capital punishment, are evidences little creditable to the system of which such evils are the result. In order, then, to remedy, if possible, some of these evils, and more particularly those which result from the deplorable state and management of the different prisons of the metropolis, your committee have examined various plans that have been offered to their inspection, for the establishment of a penitentiary, or place of separate confinement for juvenile offenders; and they are of opinion, that it is expedient to construct a prison to be peculiarly set apart for that purpose. They have thought fit to print two plans of prisons of this description in their appendix: both have their separate advantages; but your com-

committee prefer that delivered in by Mr. Bevans, which seems to them to unite nearly all the different arrangements which have been generally approved, and which combines these advantages with the strictest economy. The whole cost for the construction of a building capable of containing 400 boys will amount at furthest to 24,000*l.* which sum they cannot help contrasting with the expense of erecting a penitentiary at Milbank, which is estimated to cost 350,000*l.* and which is only intended to contain 800 persons of both sexes.

Your committee have examined much evidence as to the general management of the various penitentiary establishments supported by private benevolence which exist in the metropolis. They refer generally to the testimony of those best qualified to give the most correct information as to these places; and the concurrent opinion of all is favourable to measures such as they think it their duty to recommend. The Refuge for the Destitute, and the Philanthropic, have fully answered the views of their charitable founders and benefactors. They have redeemed hundreds from the ruin and misery into which they were plunged; and it is with peculiar satisfaction your committee have learnt, that the only check to the further progress of this great work is to be found in the deficiency of the funds at present appropriated for that purpose. That deficiency it is the object of your committee to supply; and they feel convinced that the government cannot more economically employ the funds of the

public, than in the construction of places of penitentiary confinement.

Your committee have inquired into the expenses of the maintenance of the persons in the different penitentiary establishments, as well as the number of individuals they are calculated to hold: with the exception of that at Milbank, they are all supported by voluntary contributions.

The Refuge for the Destitute, on the 14th of May last, contained 40 males, and 60 females. The former cost annually for food and clothing 23*l.* 17*s.* and the latter 28*l.* 11*s.*; the difference arises from a greater allowance of food being given to the females, who work extra hours. The success of this society has been considerable; and it has been found that about two-thirds of the persons confined and employed there have been reformed, and returned to habits of industry.

Your committee have also learnt that the applications from persons of both sexes to enter into this establishment are most numerous, both from the criminal as well as the destitute poor; and that if the funds of the institution were greater, a much larger proportion of those persons would be received.

The Philanthropic Society contains at present 41 girls and 160 boys, the children of convicts, and those who are convicts themselves: the expense per head, dividing the cost of the whole establishment by the number of persons, is about 35*l.* per annum. But your committee observe, that the apprentices to the number of 60 maintain themselves, having earned near 2,000*l.* last year, the principal expenses

pense being incurred for the younger part of the community. This institution has fully answered the views of its benevolent founders. By much the greater proportion of those who have been brought up turn out well, and fully warrant the remark of one of those who had deviated a little from the rules of discretion and good conduct, "that within its walls the society taught them habits which they could not get rid of if they would."

Your committee wish to direct the attention of the public to this excellent institution, which is well deserving a more extended patronage, not only for the end which the establishment has in view, but also for the success which has attended its labours, arising from the excellence of its regulations, and the frugal manner in which its funds are administered.

The Magdalen Hospital contains 80 females: it has been established from the year 1758, and has from that period to the present day admitted about 4,594 persons, of whom 3,012 have been restored to their friends or placed in reputable service; 912 have been discharged at their own request; 556 for improper behaviour; and 85 have died while in the hospital. Of 246 women who were discharged in the last four years, of every description, 157 are reformed; 74 have relapsed; four are insane; one is dead, and of ten the situation is not known; so that it may be estimated that two-thirds of the women who enter into this society are permanently reclaimed: the average age of those unfortunate females is from

17 to 18. They apply very young, some few at even 13 or 14, but generally from 15 to 25; some have been admitted there of 12 years of age.

The London Female Penitentiary contains 100 persons, at an average expense per head of 23*l*. This institution has been established about ten years; in that time 2,000 persons have petitioned to be admitted, and 1,565 alone have been received: of whom 265 have been reconciled to their friends and placed out to service; 18 have married; 87 have been discharged from various causes; 17 have eloped; 66 left the house at their own request, and 14 have died. Your committee observe that the labour of the women of this latter institution produced 665*l*., while that of the Magdalen was only 167*l*., during last year.

The General Penitentiary, Millbank, contained 52 males and 76 females, total 128, on the 22d May last. The cost of each prisoner as to food is sixpence to sevenpence a day, or about 9*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*. per annum. Your committee were informed that the clothing and maintenance of each prisoner would not exceed 20*l*. per annum. This establishment is of so recent a date, as not yet to furnish much evidence of the beneficial result of its regulations. But your committee cannot refrain from inserting the following extract from the journal of the chaplain, who states, that during the ten or twelve months that the prisoners have been under his direction, he has observed a great alteration in their manner, appearance, and character, and that the practical advantages of the system are far beyond his

his expectation. "The chaplain feels much pleasure in closing his journal at the expiration of the year, with stating, that the general conduct of the prisoners during their confinement in the penitentiary has been most satisfactory. The repentance and amendment of many of them is visible; and there is every reason to presume, that on their leaving the prison they will become honest and industrious members of society."

Your committee are fully aware of the expense which the plan of building a new prison will entail on the finances of the country, but they cannot consider the cost entirely additional, or one of which, if the object to be attained is brought into account, the public can have any right to complain. At present the children committed to the different prisons are maintained at the county or city charges. And your committee do not propose to shift that cost on the public treasury; they have been informed by persons who have taken pains to obtain a correct estimate as to the expense of the maintenance of prisoners, that on an average, the cost at the Philanthropic, the Refuge for the Destitute, and the common prisons, may be taken at 12*l.* per annum; and that part of that expense may be defrayed by the labours of the prisoners.

Upon the important question of employing convicts in the different prisons, as well as on board the hulks, both as to the moral no less than the economical consequences, your committee at present wish to give no decisive opinion. They, however, entertain little doubt that the whole system

of maintaining the convicts of the country is susceptible of great improvement, and they trust they shall be enabled to enter more fully into that subject early in the ensuing session.

Your committee feel conscious that they have not made as full a report upon the various subjects of their inquiries as perhaps might have been expected from them; they have thought fit to separate these subjects into distinct heads, and they have brought them before the House in the order of their importance. There are, however, many points which they are anxious to take into their serious consideration; viz. the establishments of the police; the attendance of the magistrates; the duties of the inferior parish officers; the state of the public streets; the laws concerning the suppression of disorderly houses; all of them are, in their view, objects of great public importance; and in order to bring them in the most advantageous manner under the view and consideration of parliament, your committee trust they shall be permitted to renew their labours in the ensuing session.

EXTENTS IN AID.

The Select Committee appointed to inquire into the mode of issuing Extents in Aid, the nature of the Process, its effects, and the expediency of regulating or of discontinuing the same, and to report their observations thereupon to the House, together with the Minutes of the Evidence taken before them; and to whom the several petitions

tions regarding Extents in Aid, which have been presented to the House in this Session of Parliament, were referred; have, pursuant to the order of the House, examined the matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following report:—

In the execution of their duty, your committee, adverting to the specific terms of their appointment, have considered it as directing their attention not so much to speculative or historical inquiries, as to points more immediately practical; they have therefore refrained from going more at large into the origin and history of extents in aid than seemed necessary to the elucidation of the subject; and they have the more willingly adopted this course, because these writs having commenced in the early ages of our monarchy, when the frame of society differed so widely, in almost every point, from that state of things which we now witness. However interesting such an inquiry might be as a subject of antiquarian research, it could not be expected to afford much practical instruction. They might perhaps even suggest, that the very antiquity, which in some cases might be regarded as a sanction to legal proceedings, would be more likely in the present instance, if held up as a precedent, or proposed as an example, to delude and mislead.

When our monarchs, in the days of the Edwards and Henrys, depended for the success of their expeditions on the produce of the estates of the crown, of scutages on knights' fees, and other feudal services performed or commuted, or of duties let out to farm, and a

thousand occasional exactions, in which neither justice nor the convenience of the subject were much regarded, it will not appear surprising if the sheriffs, or other arbitrary collectors of such revenues, were vested with very summary powers; especially as the king himself was, in reality as well as in theory, too much engaged about the "*ardua regni*" to pay the necessary attention to his treasury; and matters of finance were not then systematized as now, and placed under the management of public officers assembled in boards, whose only business is to superintend the different departments, so as to ensure just, regular, and efficient collection. There seems also reason to apprehend that the sheriffs were sometimes compelled to undertake this task, and made in some degree responsible for its execution; but the officer, his duties, and his powers, were known. His most frequent debtors seem also to have been the persons he was obliged to employ in the temporary custody or transmission of his receipts, who, if they became defaulters, had probably been either negligent or criminal; and of whom, therefore, there was some colour for seeking the repayment of the king's monies with despatch and even rigour. In those times, too, little national inconvenience, comparatively, could arise from such proceedings; commerce, so far from forming, as in the present day, a main pillar of our national strength and prosperity, being then unimportant.

Even in 1433, during the memorable reign of Henry V., as appears from the records of Parliament,

liament, the customs on wood, goods, and tonnage and poundage, amounted only to 40,688*l.*, which may be taken as equal to about 250,000*l.* of money at its present value. But another reason also presents itself for limiting our observations to more recent periods; for, although regulations connected with this subject are to be found in the statute-book certainly as far back as Edward I., yet it is the statute of 33 Henry VIII. cap. 9, on which extents at the suit of the crown are founded; and whatever may be thought of the character of Henry or of his government, yet the tenour of that statute affords a strong presumption that the courts thereby created for the king's lands (and which in the 1st of Mary were united to the Exchequer) were intended to take cognizance only of debts *bona fide* due immediately to the king; and that the extensions of the process which have since arisen have been unwarranted encroachments.

That the temptation afforded to individuals speedily produced abuse, we have indeed convincing evidence in the privy seal of 12 Jac. I. (1614), which in the strongest terms acknowledges and condemns the practices by which the "prerogative had been made an instrument of oppression and grief to his loving subjects," and "the commerce, intercourse, and dealing between men and men greatly hindered;" nor could James's love of power, or high notions of prerogative, render him insensible to these evils, or to the duty of correcting them. Notwithstanding this royal and wholesome inter-

ference, however, we find that in 1639, 15 Car. I., it became expedient to frame rules in the Court of Exchequer, apparently for the remedy of similar inconveniences: since which time, your committee observe with concern, that the issue of this prerogative process has increased in a degree inconsistent with the equitable spirit of the Bankrupt Laws, and the ease of the subject, and peculiarly ill-suited to the state of things produced by that extended commerce of which this country so justly boasts.

At what particular time the law acquired that latitude of interpretation, of which some individuals have not scrupled to avail themselves with such mischievous effect, does not exactly appear. That sudden and excessive growth of the issue of these writs, which alarmed and irritated the whole country, did not occur until 1815: their previous use having been almost wholly confined to the department of stamps, out of which alone nearly half of all issued since the year 1806 have proceeded. From the accounts in the appendix, it will appear, that the whole number of extents in aid issued from the office (the king's remembrancer's), from 1801 to 1814, both inclusive, had been only 207, or less than 15 per annum, of which the majority, probably, had a legitimate object, i. e. the recovery from the parties of monies which really belonged to the public, and might otherwise have been lost.

Of the multitude which have lately been granted, a very small proportion can pretend to this character,

character, but have been obtained for the purpose of gaining an unjust priority in the recovery of private debts, in direct contradiction to the law, as formerly laid down; and an inspection of the documents will yield the strongest presumption, that many persons have procured themselves to be made crown debtors, with the express and sole view of abusing the power they surreptitiously obtained.

The avowed object of these writs being to obtain this preference over all other creditors in the division of an insolvent's effects, in defiance, as your committee think, of the common dictates of justice, and of the intention of all the laws respecting bankrupts, it is of their very nature to inflict hardship; without this they do not attain their end: but in order better to illustrate the full effect of the process, it will be expedient shortly to trace it from its commencement, leaving the more full detail to be collected from the minutes of evidence.

The crown debtor, suing for the process in his favour, must first record his own debt; if it be on bond, by the exhibition of that bond; if otherwise,* by a commission, as it is called, composed of two persons, one of whom is generally a clerk in the Remembrancer's office, and the other the under sheriff, or his clerk, who receive one guinea each for their return; on this the extent issues against the crown debtor, which

however may properly be termed collusive, as it is not only done at his own request, for his own exclusive advantage, on evidence furnished by himself only, but the words directing the seizure of his body, goods, and lands, are omitted in the warrant. The debts due to this crown debtor are then found by an inquisition or inquiry, made before the sheriff and a jury summoned for that purpose; when the *viva voce* testimony, or even the affidavit of the creditor himself, or of a third person (often without any examination), is accepted as sufficient proof of the debts, though the debtor not only has no notice to attend to make objections, but, unless by accident, has no means of knowing any thing of the proceeding against him: and the jury seem to be of a description most incompetent to perform any duty of delicacy or difficulty; men whose office is considered as wholly formal; who rely on the direction of the under sheriff, or some one in his employ, generally acting as their foreman; and of whose quality a proper estimate may be formed from their receiving one shilling each from the prosecutor on giving their verdict, and in cases where "they have had any extraordinary trouble, sometimes a guinea being thrown among them." After the proof of the debt, by this evidence, and before such a jury, an affidavit is made in which the following particulars are stated; viz.

1st. The debt due to the crown:

2d. The debt due to the crown debtor by his debtor:

3d. That such debtor is in bad circumstances, and the debt in danger of being lost:

4th.

* It appears to be the soundest opinion that no other debtor could claim it at all. See Evid. p. 22, et al. App. No. 4. Bunbury.

4th. That it is a debt originally due to him, and without trust :

5th. That it has not been sued for elsewhere :

6th. That by not recovering it, the crown debtor would be less able to pay the crown. On each of these points a few observations may be expedient :—

1st. The statement of the debt to the crown.—As the real object throughout is solely the advantage of the individual, so he can in most cases make this debt appear larger or smaller, as may best suit his purpose, especially if it be a bond debt ; by stating either the whole sum for which he is bound, or that portion only which is due or demandable at the time.*

2dly. The debt due to the crown debtor.—This being taken on his own evidence, without any means of contravening it, instances are not wanting of persons resorting to an extent in aid as the shortest mode to obtain payment of a disputed account : for which, indeed, it affords facilities which no other process will give.

3dly. “ That the debt is in danger, unless means more speedy than the common course of law can be resorted to.”

* Formerly this made little or no difference, because on proof of any debt due to the crown, however small, a man might procure an extent in aid against his debtor for any debt, however large ; but this gross absurdity, as well as injustice, having been remedied by the act just passed, it may now become, in some cases, of consequence to prove the debt to the crown as largely as possible ; and it will be seen in the Appendix, that a sub-distributor of stamps has called himself a bond-debtor to the crown in 1,200l. when his sale or distribution varied from only about 400l. to less than 800l. per annum.—Evid. p. 21.

This part of the affidavit, though implying the injury done to the other creditors, and therefore justifiable only on the strong presumption, at least, that the public interest would suffer from the loss, is deemed indispensable in all cases ; and, therefore, when the private creditor is anxious to secure himself at all events, it is not wonderful that the assertion should sometimes be hazarded on slight grounds ; accordingly it has been stated, on the loosest evidence—mere assertion of hearsay ; and the “ fiat,” with all its destructive consequences, has been granted on no better foundation. It has happened, that after all the mischief has been accomplished, and the man ruined, the extent itself has been set aside for want of sufficient proof on this necessary point.

4thly. That the debt is originally due to the party without trust. — Your committee must doubt if this can be truly sworn, when, at the request of a man holding a bill of exchange, a bond debtor to the crown consents to take it of him, knowing at the time that the party to pay it is insolvent ; and when the matter comes before the court, rather chooses to abandon it than proceed to trial. The transfer of debts for this purpose, by taking bills of exchange, has been frequent notwithstanding this deposition.

5thly. That the debt has not been put in suit in any other court ;—a proceeding rarely necessary.

6thly. That important clause called the *quo minus*, which lies at the foot of the whole, whereby the party swears, that if he cannot recover
this

this debt he will be the less able to satisfy his debt to His Majesty. That *prima facie* this was, and must have been, the real foundation of granting the aid desired, is self-evident: the words themselves, in perfect consistency with the obvious intention, afford irrefragable proof of it; and yet the common practice is to grant the writ when this is not believed on the one side, nor even pretended to be true on the other; nay, where even the insinuation of its truth would be treated as an affront, at least, if not as a libel. On what grounds, then, is it defended? First, on the quibble, that of whatever surplus a man may be possessed beyond what is required for the discharge of his debts, every diminution of that surplus brings him nearer, and consequently makes him more liable to, actual insolvency; and that therefore if he cannot be said to be actually less able at the moment, he may be less able at some future time; i. e. supposing a man worth 10,000*l.* surplus, to make the affidavit in order to prevent a loss of 50*l.* it may be said that a surplus of 9,950*l.* will *exteris paribus*, be sooner exhausted by misfortune or accident than one of 10,000*l.* But another plea, of a nature quite different, is also offered; viz. that the words are merely formal in this case, as well as when used in common suits between subjects in the same court; and therefore ought so to be regarded, and to be dispensed with entirely.* The

* This opinion seems to be in some degree countenanced by the fact, that though this allegation has by some been deemed absolutely necessary, yet in practice it was omitted in many of the affidavits on which

obvious reply is, that in other suits the words are known and acknowledged to be employed merely to bring the plea into that court which is peculiarly the King's; and no prerogative advantage being afforded to either party, the use of verbal forms is wholly indifferent and innocent; whereas in the present case they are used on a pretext, known to be untrue, to work a real wrong. Your committee cannot but be of opinion that both excuses are equally unsatisfactory: that the oath ought to be materially altered, so as to make it really what it seems: or if there be any solid and substantial objection to the alteration (of which your committee are not aware), that it would be better to abandon it altogether, than to suffer it to remain a casuistical snare for perjury, and an opprobrium to the administration of justice.

On this affidavit however, and the previous legal proceedings, loose and unsatisfactory as they are at best, and often hurried through with all the expedition of a race, to defeat that equitable division of the property which a rival commission of bankrupt is seeking to effect, does an extent in aid issue; and against a person, not a debtor to the crown, sometimes not so even in the second degree; but it may be against a solvent man, unfortunately indebted to one who chooses to believe him insolvent, and who has sufficient ingenuity to set himself up as a crown debtor. The execution is of the severest kind:—every thing, down to the minutest article of his property, is

writs were granted in the last year; but as the omission was unnoticed, the grants might have been made only through inadvertence.

then!

then seized; his books, papers, and accounts by which he might be enabled to dispute his creditors' demands, or to enforce his own, are carried off and withheld from him. Nor is this all; his person too* (which a common execution, after having taken the property, would leave untouched) may be thrown into gaol, and kept there at the discretion of that very creditor by whose oppressive conduct such a waste of his property may be occasioned, as alone to produce that very insolvency, on the allegation of which, as previously existed, the whole process was founded; and neither can a commission of bankruptcy or an insolvent act release him. Nor is this mere imagination: it appears to your committee, that, as far as respects the debtor, the whole is realized in at least one case detailed in the Appendix.

Your committee apprehend that enough has been stated to point out the extreme oppression often worked by this mode of procedure on the unfortunate debtor who is the object of it, and the injustice committed towards his other creditors. It remains to inquire into the validity of the reasons urged for the maintenance of any portion of the practice, which are all contained in the one sweeping phrase, the security of the revenue. One indeed of the witnesses has spoken of "the right of the subject to claim the benefit of this prerogative, that the solvency of the crown debtor may be sup-

* It seems, by rule 3, 15 Charles I. that the person could not be taken unless by special order made in open court, nor any debts without specialty; if so, the late practice is an encroachment.

ported;" but as it has been allowed, and even maintained by the most respectable authority, that in these cases the prerogative is only another name for the public interest, a certain and unexceptionable standard to which to refer is thereby furnished. Is the revenue hereby secured? Is the public interest advanced? Of the numerous cases which have of late been brought within public observation (and a small portion only of which could be inserted in the Appendix) this does not appear to have been the object in one single instance; in very few can it be shown to have been even incidentally or probably served; and in several, the interest of the individual prosecutor of the extent has been pursued to the absolute injury of that very revenue, for the safety of which, exclusively, the process was originally instituted. To the former part of this statement the solicitors of the Revenue Boards bear the most unequivocal testimony; and the cases mentioned, besides others which might have been produced, afford decisive proof of greater loss than the whole list can supply of probable advantage. Indeed it seems scarcely doubtful whether the whole process for private debts might not be abolished, without any disadvantage to the public interest; while it will be worth consideration how far any supposed benefit may be outweighed by the evils attendant on continuing the practice. The ruin of unfortunate debtors, the injury of innocent and unsuspecting creditors, and the extensive injury wrought among the community at large, by the breach of good faith, and the consequent destruction of that honour-

nourable confidence on which the interest and the prosperity of a commercial country so essentially depends.

To one argument which has been adduced, your committee are disposed to allow considerable weight, viz. that all the sureties or bondsmen for crown receivers of every kind, having become such, depending on their claims to this process in case of necessity, it would be unjust to deprive them of this weapon without notice; and that perhaps in equity, if not in law also, they might thereby be discharged of their responsibility.

To this it may be replied, that if it be so, notice may be given; and as far as experience can guide us, no great difficulty need be expected to arise. The situation of Receiver-General is too much sought after to excite any apprehension that it will not be able to find itself securities. In the case of the increase of surety required on account of the collection of the property-tax, no additional emolument of poundage was granted; nor have the instances of default been so frequent as to create alarm: but should such a difficulty be unexpectedly found, it may easily be removed by lessening the balances now allowed to be retained, accelerating the payments into the Exchequer, and increasing the number of receivers: by all or any of which means the responsibility of the securities would be diminished, and the facility of obtaining them proportionally increased. On referring, however, to the evidence, it will be found that scarcely any surety has ever been called on, and that very few of the receivers, not being bankers, have ever employed the

process. It will also be seen that an intention has been declared, of not appointing bankers in future to these offices. Of the propriety of this supposed determination, or how far it may have been influenced by considerations connected with the subject of this report, your committee offer no opinion: but they have no hesitation in saying, that in the instances which have come before them, of the exercise of the power by banking-houses, the advantage of the individuals seems alone to have been attended to, without any reference to the safety of the revenue.

There are also various other embarrassments and vexations in the course of these proceedings, which, though small in comparison of the enormous grievances which have been detailed, are yet too considerable in themselves to be passed without observation, and which, your committee hope, will, ere long, be also subjected to legislative correction. Such are, the waste of the property by the sheriff's poundage, by forced and hasty sales, and by other expenses of the process, especially that of resistance, or the attempt to set aside the extent, which even when successful, must equally be borne by the insolvent's estate: the extending the operation of the writ to the debtor in the fourth degree, instead of the third; the issuing immediate extents instead of *scire facias*; the modes and rules of pleading, all too much in favour of maintaining that possession which is so hastily, and which, sometimes when too late, appears to have been unjustly obtained; and all of which, whether dependent on the rules of court, or otherwise,

otherwise, undoubtedly require a careful revision.

That these practices, though really so injurious, should have been permitted so long to exist, and of late even so greatly to increase, seems easily explicable from what has been already stated. It is but too much in the nature of all old establishments to be partial to their own modes: to be slow in perceiving their imperfections, and not very forward in correcting them, even when acknowledged, especially if risk be thereby incurred of diminishing their influence or jurisdiction. It has been already observed, that previous to 1814, the whole number of instances in which these writs were employed was comparatively very small, and the gross abuse of them still more rare, so that the call for reformation was neither loud nor urgent; but as soon as ever they began to be more known and used, the encroaching principle of power began to operate; each instance of their unjustifiable misapplication served also as a pretence for another, by way either of self-defence or reimbursement; and those persons with whom interest is the rule of action, eagerly sought the means of including themselves within the class so privileged, at the expense of their neighbours: while the profits arising to all the agents and officers engaged in the soliciting the issue, and the execution of the process, naturally induced them to facilitate it by every means which could be desired, and to recommend its adoption, till, by the concurrence of all these causes, the mischief was increasing with a rapidity which,

had it not been speedily checked, threatened to supersede all the fair and ordinary modes of recovering debts by the common course of law.

Your committee cannot conclude without expressing their satisfaction, that even during the consideration of this report, a bill has passed, which, in its present state, they trust will remedy much of the evil which they have been compelled to expose and to condemn. But as much power is still continued to some classes, in which are found individuals who have exerted it in the most censurable manner, they feel bound to recommend an increased vigilance over its exercise in every quarter in which it may be at all controlled, in order that it may be at least confined to the objects of its original intention. The laudable practice of the Post-office, the Board of Customs, and, perhaps, more prominently still, of the Excise, has shown not only how unnecessary extents in aid are to the security of the revenue, but how beneficially the solicitors to the public boards might be employed, in limiting their issue; but your committee must observe that, in order to gain this advantage to its proper extent, the example of the Excise should also be followed in another point, which to them appears very important, viz.—that these solicitors should confine themselves to their official practice; or at least be absolutely prohibited from undertaking, for private individuals, the management of any affairs in which the revenue is at all concerned.

July 11, 1817.

CHARACTERS.

CHARACTERS.

LETTERS FROM THE PRIVATE COR-
RESPONDENCE OF BENJAMIN
FRANKLIN, LL.D. F.R.S. &c.

TO GEORGE WHITEFIELD,
(The Preacher.)

On Faith and Good Works.

SIR, Philadelphia, June 6, 1753.

I RECEIVED your kind letter of the 2d instant, and am glad to hear that you increase in strength; I hope you will continue mending till you recover your former health and firmness. Let me know whether you still use the cold bath, and what effect it has.

As to the kindness you mention, I wish it could have been of more use to you. But if it had, the only thanks I should desire is, that you would always be equally ready to serve any other person that may need your assistance, and so let good offices go round; for mankind are all of a family.

For my own part, when I am employed in serving others, I do not look upon myself as conferring favours, but as paying debts. In my travels, and since my settlement, I have received much kindness from men, to whom I shall never have any opportunity of

making the least direct return; and numberless mercies from God, who is infinitely above being benefited by our services. Those kindnesses from men, I can therefore only return on their fellow men, and I can only show my gratitude for these mercies from God, by a readiness to help his other children, and my brethren. For I do not think that thanks and compliments, though repeated weekly, can discharge our real obligations to each other, and much less those to our Creator. You will see in this my notion of good works, that I am far from expecting to merit heaven by them. By heaven we understand a state of happiness, infinite in degree, and eternal in duration: I can do nothing to deserve such rewards. He that for giving a draught of water to a thirsty person, should expect to be paid with a good plantation, would be modest in his demands, compared with those who think they deserve heaven for the little good they do on earth. Even the mixed imperfect pleasures we enjoy in this world, are rather from God's goodness than our merit: how much more such happiness of Heaven! For my part, I have not
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the vanity to think I deserve it, the folly to expect it, nor the ambition to desire it; but content myself in submitting to the will and disposal of that God who made me, who has hitherto preserved and blessed me, and in whose fatherly goodness I may well confide, that he will never make me miserable; and that even the afflictions I may at any time suffer shall tend to my benefit.

The faith you mention has certainly its use in the world: I do not desire to see it diminished, nor would I endeavour to lessen it in any man. But I wish it were more productive of good works, than I have generally seen it; I mean real good works; works of kindness, charity, mercy, and public spirit; not holiday-keeping, sermon-reading, or hearing; performing church ceremonies, or making long prayers, filled with flatteries and compliments, despised even by wise men, and much less capable of pleasing the Deity. The worship of God is a duty; the hearing and reading of sermons may be useful; but if men rest in hearing and praying, as too many do, it is as if a tree should value itself on being watered and putting forth leaves, though it never produced any fruit.

Your great Master thought much less of these outward appearances and professions, than many of his modern disciples. He preferred the doers of the word to the mere hearers; the son that seemingly refused to obey his father, and yet performed his commands, to him that professed his readiness but neglected the work; the heretical but charitable Samaritan, to the un-

charitable though orthodox priest, and sanctified Levite; and those who gave food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, raiment to the naked, entertainment to the stranger, and relief to the sick, though they never heard of his name, he declares, shall in the last day be accepted; when those who cry Lord! Lord! who value themselves upon their faith, though great enough to perform miracles, but have neglected good works, shall be rejected. He professed that he came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance; which implied his modest opinion that there were some in his time who thought themselves so good that they need not hear even him for improvement; but now-a-days we have scarce a little parson that does not think it the duty of every man within his reach to sit under his petty ministrations; and that whoever omits them, offends God. I wish to such more humility, and to you health and happiness; being

Your friend and servant,

B. FRANKLIN.

TO THE REV. DR. PRIESTLEY.

Reflections on the Conduct of Mankind to each other.—Apologue.

DEAR SIR,

Passy, June, 7, 1782.

I received your kind letter of the 7th of April, also one of the 3d of May. I have always great pleasure in hearing from you, in learning that you are well, and that you continue your experiments. I should rejoice much if I could once more recover the leisure to search with you into the works of nature; I mean the inanimate, not the animate or moral

ral part of them; the more I discovered of the former, the more I admired them; the more I know of the latter, the more I am disgusted with them. Men, I find to be a sort of beings very badly constructed, as they are generally more easily provoked than reconciled, to do mischief to each other than to make reparation, much more easily deceived than undeceived, and having more pride and even pleasure in killing than in begetting one another; for without a blush they assemble in great armies at noon-day to destroy, and when they have killed as many as they can, they exaggerate the number to augment the fancied glory; but they creep into corners, or cover themselves with the darkness of night when they mean to beget, as being ashamed of a virtuous action. A virtuous action it would be, and a vicious one the killing of them, if the species were really worth producing or preserving; but of this I begin to doubt. I know you have no such doubts, because in your zeal for their welfare, you are taking a great deal of pains to save their souls. Perhaps as you grow older, you may look upon this as a hopeless project, or an idle amusement, repent of having murdered in mephitic air so many honest, harmless mice, and wish that to prevent mischief you had used boys and girls instead of them. In what light we are viewed by superior beings, may be gathered from a piece of late West-India news, which possibly has not yet reached you. A young angel of distinction being sent down to this world on some business, for the first time, had an old courier-spirit assigned him as a

guide; they arrived over the seas of Martinico, in the middle of the long day of obstinate fight between the fleets of Rodney and De Grasse. When through the clouds of smoke he saw the fire of the guns, the decks covered with mangled limbs, and bodies dead or dying; the ships sinking, burning, or blown into the air; and the quantity of pain, misery, and destruction, the crews yet alive were thus with so much eagerness dealing round to one another; he turned angrily to his guide, and said, you blundering block-head, you are ignorant of your business; you undertook to conduct me to the earth, and you have brought me into hell! No, Sir, says the guide, I have made no mistake; this is really the earth, and these are men. Devils never treat one another in this cruel manner; they have more sense, and more of what men (vainly) call humanity.

TO MRS. BACHE.

On the proposed Order of the Cincinnati, Hereditary Nobility, and descending Honours.

MY DEAR CHILD, Passy, Jan. 26, 1784.

Your care in sending me the newspapers is very agreeable to me. I received by Captain Barney those relating to the Cincinnati. My opinion of the institution cannot be of much importance: I only wonder that, when the united wisdom of our nation had, in the articles of confederation, manifested their dislike of establishing ranks of nobility, by authority either of the congress or of any particular state, a number of private

vate persons should think proper to distinguish themselves and their posterity, from their fellow-citizens, and form an order of hereditary knights, in direct opposition to the solemnly-declared sense of their country! I imagine it must be likewise contrary to the good sense of most of those drawn into it, by the persuasion of its projectors, who have been too much struck with the ribbands and crosses they have seen hanging to the button-holes of foreign officers. And I suppose those who disapprove of it, have not hitherto given it much opposition, from a principle somewhat like that of your good mother, relating to punctilious persons, who are always exacting little observances of respect; that “if people can be pleased with small matters, it is a pity but they should have them.” In this view, perhaps, I should not myself, if my advice had been asked, have objected to their wearing their ribband and badge themselves according to their fancy, though I certainly should to the entailing it as an honor on their posterity. For honor, worthily obtained, (as that for example of our officers) is in its nature a personal thing, and incommunicable to any but those who had some share in obtaining it. Thus among the Chinese, the most ancient, and from long experience the wisest of nations, honor does not descend, but ascends. If a man from his learning, his wisdom, or his valour, is promoted by the Emperor to the rank of Mandarin, his parents are immediately entitled to all the same ceremonies of respect from the people, that are established as due to the Mandarin himself; on the supposition that it must have

been owing to the education, instruction, and good example afforded him by his parents, that he was rendered capable of serving the public. This ascending honor is therefore useful to the state, as it encourages parents to give their children a good and virtuous education. But the descending honor, to a posterity who could have no share in obtaining it, is not only groundless and absurd, but often hurtful to that posterity, since it is apt to make them proud, disdaining to be employed in useful arts, and thence falling into poverty, and all the meannesses, servility, and wretchedness attending it; which is the present case with much of what is called the *noblesse* in Europe. Or if, to keep up the dignity of the family, estates are entailed entire on the eldest male heir, another pest to industry and improvement of the country is introduced, which will be followed by all the odious mixture of pride and beggary, and idleness, that have half depopulated and decultivated Spain; occasioning continual extinction of families by the discouragements of marriage, and neglect in the improvement of estates. I wish therefore that the Cincinnati, if they must go on with their project, would direct the badges of their order to be worn by their fathers and mothers, instead of handing them down to their children. It would be a good precedent, and might have good effects. It would also be a kind of obedience to the fourth commandment, in which God enjoins us to honor our father and mother, but has no where directed us to honor our children. And certainly no mode of honoring those immediate authors of our being
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can be more effectual, than that of doing praise-worthy actions, which reflect honor on those who gave us our education; or more becoming, than that of manifesting, by some public expression or token, that it is to their instruction and example we ascribe the merit of those actions.

But the absurdity of descending honors is not a mere matter of philosophical opinion, it is capable of mathematical demonstration. A man's son, for instance, is but half of his family, the other half belonging to the family of his wife. His son too, marrying into another family, his share in the grandson is but a fourth; in the great grandson, by the same process, it is but an eighth. In the next generation a sixteenth; the next a thirty-second; the next a sixty-fourth; the next an hundred and twenty-eighth; the next a two hundred and fifty-sixth; and the next a five hundred and twelfth: thus in nine generations, which will not require more than 300 years, (no very great antiquity for a family) our present Chevalier of the order of Cincinnatus's share in the then existing knight, will be but a 512th part; which, allowing the present certain fidelity of American wives to be insured down through all those nine generations, is so small a consideration, that methinks no reasonable man would hazard for the sake of it, the disagreeable consequences of the jealousy, envy, and ill-will of his countrymen.

Let us go back with our calculation from this young noble, the 512th part of the present knight, through his nine generations, till we return to the year of the institution. He must have had a

father and mother, they are two; each of them had a father and mother, they are four. Those of the next preceding generation will be eight, the next sixteen, the next thirty-two, the next sixty-four, the next one hundred and twenty-eight, the next two hundred and fifty-six, and the ninth in this retrocession five hundred and twelve, who must be now existing, and all contribute their proportion of this future *Chevalier de Cincinnatus*. These, with the rest, make together as follows:

	2
	4
	8
	16
	32
	64
	128
	256
	512
	<hr/>
Total...	1022

One thousand and twenty-two men and women, contributors to the formation of one knight. And if we are to have a thousand of these future knights, there must be now and hereafter existing one million and twenty-two thousand fathers and mothers, who are to contribute to their production, unless a part of the number are employed in making more knights than one. Let us strike off then the 22,000 on the supposition of this double employ, and then consider whether, after a reasonable estimation of the number of rogues, and fools, and scoundrels, and prostitutes, that are mixed with, and help to make up necessarily their million of predecessors, posterity will have much reason to boast of the noble blood of the then

then existing set of Chevaliers of Cincinnatus. The future genealogists two of these Chevaliers, in proving the lineal descent of their honor through so many generations, (even supposing honor capable in its nature of descending) will only prove the small share of this honor which can be justly claimed by any one of them, since the above simple process in arithmetic makes it quite plain and clear, that in proportion as the antiquity of the family shall augment, the right to the honour of the ancestor will diminish; and a few generations more would reduce it to something so small as to be very near an absolute nullity. I hope therefore that the order will drop this part of their project, and content themselves, as the Knights of the Garter, Bath, Thistle, St. Louis, and other orders of Europe do, with a life enjoyment of their little badge and ribband, and let the distinction die with those who have merited it. This I imagine will give no offence. For my own part, I shall think it a convenience, when I go into a company where there may be faces unknown to me, if I discover, by this badge, the persons who merit some particular expression of my respect; and it will save modest virtue the trouble of calling for our regard, by awkward roundabout intimations of having been heretofore employed as officers in the continental service.

The gentleman who made the voyage to France to provide the ribbands and medals, has executed his commission. To me they seem tolerably done; but all such things are criticised. Some find fault with the Latin, as wanting clas-

sical elegance and correctness; and since our nine universities were not able to furnish better Latin, it was pity, they say, that the mottos had not been in English. Others object to the title, as not properly assumable by any but General Washington, and a few others, who served without pay. Others object to the bald eagle, as looking too much like a dindon or turkey. For my own part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character: he does not get his living honestly; you may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk: and when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him, and takes it from him. With all this injustice he is never in good case, but like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. Besides, he is a rank coward: the little king bird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America, who have driven all the king birds from our country; though exactly fit for that order of knights which the French call *Chevaliers d'Industrie*. I am on this account, not displeased that the figure is not known as a bald eagle, but looks more like a turkey. For in truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal
a true

a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours; the first of the species seen in Europe being brought to France by the Jesuits from Canada, and served up at the wedding table of Charles the Ninth. He is besides, (though a little vain and silly 'tis true, but not the worse emblem for that) a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards, who should presume to invade his farm-yard with a red coat on.

I shall not enter into the criticisms made upon their Latin. The gallant officers of America may not have the merit of being great scholars, but they undoubtedly merit much as brave soldiers from their country, which should therefore not leave them merely to fame for their "*virtutis premium*," which is one of their Latin mottos. Their "*esto perpetua*," another, is an excellent wish, if they meant it for their country; bad, if intended for their order. The states should not only restore to them the *omnia* of their first motto, which many of them have left and lost, but pay them justly, and reward them generously. They should not be suffered to remain with all their new created chivalry entirely in the situation of the gentleman in the story, which their *omnia reliquit* reminds me of. You know every thing makes me recollect some story. He had built a very fine house, and thereby much impaired his fortune. He had a pride however in showing it to his acquaintance. One of them, after viewing it all, remarked a motto over the door *ŌIA VANITAS*.

What, says he, is the meaning of this *ŌIA*? 'tis a word I don't understand. I will tell you, said the gentleman: I had a mind to have the motto cut on a piece of smooth marble, but there was not room for it between the ornaments, to be put in characters large enough to be read. I therefore made use of a contraction anciently very common in Latin manuscripts, whereby the *m*'s and *n*'s in words are omitted, and the omission noted by a little dash above, which you may see there, so that the word is *omnia*, *OMNIA VANITAS*. O, said his friend, I now comprehend the meaning of your motto, it relates to your edifice; and signifies that if you have abridged your *omnia*, you have nevertheless left your *VANITAS* legible at full length.

I am, as ever,

Your affectionate father,

B. FRANKLIN.

TO W. STRAHAN, Esq. M. P.

(King's Printer, London.)

Suggestions as to the deplorable Situation of the English Government.

DEAR SIR,

Passy, Feb. 16, 1784.

I received and read with pleasure your kind letter of the first instant, as it informed me of the welfare of you and yours. I am glad the accounts you have from your kinswoman at Philadelphia are agreeable, and I shall be happy if any recommendations from me can be serviceable to Dr. Ross, or any others, friends of yours, going to America.

Your arguments persuading me to come once more to England,
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are very powerful. To be sure I long to see again my friends there, whom I love abundantly : but there are difficulties and objections of several kinds, which at present I don't see how to get over.

I lament with you the political disorders England at present labours under. Your papers are full of strange accounts of anarchy and confusion in America, of which we know nothing, while your own affairs are really in a deplorable situation. In my humble opinion, the root of the evil lies not so much in too long, or too unequally chosen parliaments, as in the enormous salaries, emoluments, and patronage of your great officers ; and that you will never be at rest till they are all abolished, and every place of honour made at the same time, instead of a place of profit, a place of expense and burthen. Ambition and avarice are each of them strong passions, and when they are united in the same persons, and have the same objects in view for their gratification, they are too strong for public spirit and love of country, and are apt to produce the most violent factions and contentions. They should therefore be separated, and made to act one against the other. Those places, to speak in our old style (brother type) may be good for the CHAPEL, but they are bad for the master, as they create constant quarrels that hinder the business. For example, here are two months that your government has been employed in *getting its form to press* ; which is not yet fit to *work on*, every page of it being *squabbled*, and the whole ready to fall into *pye*. The founts too must be very scanty, or strangely *out of*

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sorts, since your *compositors* cannot find either *upper* or *lower-case* letters sufficient to set the word ADMINISTRATION, but are forced to be continually *turning for them*. However, to return to common (though perhaps too saucy) language, don't despair ; you have still one resource left, and that not a bad one, since it may reunite the empire. We have some remains of affection for you, and shall always be ready to receive and take care of you in case of distress. So if you have not sense and virtue enough to govern yourselves, e'en dissolve your present old crazy constitution, and send members to congress.

You will say my *advice* " smells of *Madeira*." You are right. This foolish letter is mere chit-chat *between ourselves*, over the *second bottle*. If, therefore, you show it to any body, (except our indulgent friends Dagge and Lady Strachan) I will positively *solless* you. Yours ever most affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN.

TO THE REV. DOCTOR MATHER,
BOSTON.

*On his Advice to the People of
America.*

REV. SIR, Passy, May 12, 1784.

I received your kind letter with your excellent advice to the people of the United States, which I read with great pleasure, and hope it will be duly regarded. Such writings, though they may be lightly passed over by many readers, yet if they make a deep impression on one active mind in an hundred, the effects may be considerable. Permit me to mention one little instance, which though it

it relates to myself, will not be quite uninteresting to you. When I was a boy, I met with a book entitled *Essays to do Good*, which I think was written by your father. It had been so little regarded by a former possessor, that several leaves of it were torn out: but the remainder gave me such a turn of thinking as to have an influence on my conduct through life; for I have always set a greater value on the character of a doer of good, than on any other kind of reputation; and if I have been, as you seem to think, a useful citizen, the public owes the advantage of it to that book. You mention your being in your 78th year; I am in my 79th; we are grown old together. It is now more than sixty years since I left Boston, but I remember well both your father and grandfather, having heard them both in the pulpit, and seen them in their houses. The last time I saw your father was in the beginning of 1724, when I visited him after my first trip to Pennsylvania. He received me in his library, and on my taking leave shewed me a shorter way out of the house through a narrow passage, which was crossed by a beam over head. We were still talking as I withdrew, he accompanying me behind, and I turning partly towards him, when he said hastily, stoop, stoop! I did not understand him till I felt my head hit against the beam. He was a man that never missed any occasion of giving instruction, and upon this he said to me, *you are young, and have the world before you; stoop as you go through it, and you will miss many hard thumps.* This advice thus beat into my head has fre-

quently been of use to me, and I often think of it, when I see pride mortified, and misfortunes brought upon people by their carrying their heads too high.

B. FRANKLIN.

TO WILLIAM STRAHAN, Esq.
(King's Printer, London.)

Invites him to Passy.—Annihilation of profitable Places.—American Congress and British Parliament.—The late War.—Gen. Clarke, &c.

DEAR FRIEND, Passy, Aug. 19, 1784.

I received your kind letter of April 17. You will have the goodness to place my delay in answering, to the account of indisposition and business, and excuse it. I have now that letter before me; and my grandson, whom you may formerly remember a little scholar at Mr. Elphinston's, purposing to set out in a day or two on a visit to his father in London, I sit down to scribble a little to you, first recommending him as a worthy young man to your civilities and counsels.

You press me much to come to England. I am not without strong inducements to do so; the fund of knowledge you promise to communicate to me is an addition to them, and no small one. At present it is impracticable. But when my grandson returns, come with him. We will talk the matter over, and perhaps you may take me back with you. I have a bed at your service, and will try to make your residence, while you can stay with us, as agreeable to you, if possible, as I am sure it will be to me.

You do not "approve the annihilation

nihilation of profitable places ;” for you do not see “ why a statesman who does his business well, should not be paid for his labour as well as any other workman.” Agreed. But why more than any other workman? The less the salary the greater the honour. In so great a nation there are many rich enough to afford giving their time to the public ; and there are I make no doubt many wise and able men who would take as much pleasure in governing for nothing, as they do in playing chess for nothing. It would be one of the noblest amusements. That this opinion is not chimerical, the country I now live in affords a proof ; its whole civil and criminal law administration being done for nothing, or in some sense for less than nothing, since the members of its judiciary parliaments buy their places, and do not make more than three per cent. for their money, by their fees and emoluments, while the legal interest is five ; so that in fact they give two per cent to be allowed to govern, and all their time and trouble into the bargain. Thus profit, one motive for desiring place, being abolished, there remains only ambition ; and that being in some degree balanced by loss, you may easily conceive that there will not be very violent factions and contentions for such places ; nor much of the mischief to the country that attends your factions, which have often occasioned wars, and overloaded you with debts impayable.

I allow you all the force of your joke upon the vagrancy of our congress. They have a right to sit where they please, of which perhaps they have made too much

use by shifting too often.—But they have two other rights ; those of sitting when they please, and as long as they please, in which methinks they have the advantage of your Parliament ; for they cannot be dissolved by the breath of a minister, or sent packing as you were the other day, when it was your earnest desire to have remained longer together.

You “ fairly acknowledge that the late war terminated quite contrary to your expectation.” Your expectation was ill founded ; for you would not believe your old friend, who told you repeatedly that by those measures England would lose her colonies, as Epictetus warned in vain his master that he would break his leg. You believed rather the tales you heard of our poltroonery and impotence of body and mind. Do you not remember the story you told me of the Scotch serjeant who met with a party of forty American soldiers, and though alone, disarmed them all, and brought them in prisoners ? a story almost as improbable as that of the Irishman, who pretended to have alone taken and brought in five of the enemy by *surrounding* them. And yet, my friend, sensible and judicious as you are, but partaking of the general infatuation, you seemed to believe it. The word general puts me in mind of a general, your General Clarke, who had the folly to say in my hearing at Sir John Pringle’s, that with a thousand British grenadiers he would undertake to go from one end of America to the other, and geld all the males, partly by force and partly by a little coaxing. It is plain he took us for a species of

animals very little superior to brutes. The Parliament too believed the stories of another foolish general, I forget his name, that the Yankies never felt bold. Yankey was understood to be a sort of Yahoo, and the Parliament did not think the petitions of such creatures were fit to be received and read in so wise an assembly. What was the consequence of this monstrous pride and insolence? You first sent small armies to subdue us, believing them more than sufficient, but soon found yourselves obliged to send greater; these, whenever they ventured to penetrate our country beyond the protection of their ships, were either repulsed and obliged to scamper out, or were surrounded, beaten, and taken prisoners. An American planter who had never seen Europe, was chosen by us to command our troops, and continued during the whole war. This man sent home to you, one after another, five of your best generals baffled, their heads bare of laurels, disgraced even in the opinion of their employers. Your contempt of our understandings in comparison with your own appeared to be not much better founded than that of our courage, if we may judge by this circumstance, that in whatever court of Europe a Yankey negotiator appeared, the wise British minister was routed, put in a passion, picked a quarrel with your friends, and was sent home with a flea in his ear. But after all, my dear friend, do not imagine that I am vain enough to ascribe our success to any superiority in any of those points. I am too well acquainted with all the springs and levers of

our machine, not to see, that our human means were unequal to our undertaking, and that if it had not been for the justice of our cause, and the consequent interposition of Providence, in which we had faith, we must have been ruined. If I had ever before been an Atheist, I should now have been convinced of the Being and government of a Deity! It is he who abases the proud and favours the humble. May we never forget his goodness to us, and may our future conduct manifest our gratitude!

But let us leave these serious reflections, and converse with our usual pleasantries. I remember your observing once to me, as we sat together in the House of Commons, that no two journeymen printers within your knowledge, had met with such success in the world as ourselves. You were then at the head of your profession, and soon afterwards became a member of parliament. I was an agent for a few provinces, and now act for them all. But we have risen by different modes. I, as a republican printer, always liked a form well *plained down*; being averse to those *overbearing* letters that hold their heads so high as to hinder their neighbours from appearing. You, as a monarchist, chose to work upon *crown* paper, and found it profitable; whilst I worked upon *pro patria* (often indeed called *fools-cap*) with no less advantage. Both our *heaps* hold out very well, and we seem likely to make a pretty good day's work of it. With regard to public affairs, (to continue in the same style) it seems to me that the compositors in your chapel do not *cast off their*
copy

copy well, nor perfectly understand *imposing*: their *forms* too are continually pestered by the *outs*, and *doubles*, that are not easy to be corrected. And I think they were wrong in laying aside some *faces*, and particularly certain *head-pieces*, that would have been both useful and ornamental. But, courage! The business may still flourish with good management; and the master become as rich as any of the company.

By the way, the rapid growth and extension of the English language in America, must become greatly advantageous to the book-sellers, and holders of copy-rights in England. A vast audience is assembling there for English authors, ancient, present, and future, our people doubling every twenty years; and this will demand large and of course profitable impressions of your most valuable books. I would, therefore, if I possessed such rights, entail them, if such a thing be practicable, upon my posterity; for their worth will be continually augmenting. This may look a little like advice, and yet I have drank no madeira these six months. The subject, however, leads me to another thought, which is, that you do wrong to discourage the emigration of Englishmen to America. In my piece on population, I have proved, I think, that emigration does not diminish but multiplies a nation. You will not have fewer at home for those that go abroad; and as every man who comes among us, and takes up a piece of land, becomes a citizen, and by our constitution has a voice in elections, and a share in the government of the

country, why should you be against acquiring by this fair means a re-possession of it, and leave it to be taken by foreigners of all nations and languages, who by their numbers may drown and stifle the English, which otherwise would probably become in the course of two centuries the most extensive language in the world, the Spanish only excepted? It is a fact, that the Irish emigrants and their children are now in possession of the government of Pennsylvania, by their majority in the assembly, as well as of a great part of the territory; and I remember well the first ship that brought any of them over. I am ever, my dear friend, yours most affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN.

LETTER FROM DR. STILES, PRESIDENT OF YALE COLLEGE, &c. TO DR. FRANKLIN.

Requesting his Portrait for Yale College, and wishing to be made acquainted with his religious Sentiments.

SIR, Yale College, Jan. 28, 1790.

We have lately received Governor Yale's portrait from his family in London, and deposited it in the College Library, where is also deposited one of Governor Saltonstall's. I have long wished that we might be honoured also with that of Dr. Franklin. In the course of your long life, you may probably have become possessed of several portraits of yourself. Shall I take too great a liberty, in humbly asking a donation of one of them to Yale College? You obliged me with a mezzotinto picture of yourself many years ago,

ago, which I often view with pleasure. But the canvass is more permanent. We wish to be possessed of the durable resemblance of the American patriot and philosopher. You have merited and received all the honours of the republic of letters; and are going to a world, where all sublunary glories will be lost in the glories of immortality. Should you shine throughout the intellectual and stellary universe, with the eminence and distinguished lustre with which you have appeared in this little detached part of the creation, you would be what I most fervently wish to you, Sir, whatever may be my fate in eternity. The grand climacteric in which I now am, reminds me of the interesting scenes of futurity. You know, Sir, that I am a Christian, and would to heaven all others were such as I am, except my imperfections and deficiencies of moral character. As much as I know of Dr. Franklin, I have not an idea of his religious sentiments. I wish to know the opinion of my venerable friend concerning Jesus of Nazareth. He will not impute this to impertinence or improper curiosity, in one, who for so many years has continued to love, estimate, and reverence his abilities and literary character, with an ardour and affection bordering on adoration. If I have said too much let the request be blotted out, and be no more; and yet I shall never cease to wish you that happy immortality which I believe Jesus alone has purchased for the virtuous and truly good of every religious denomination in Christendom, and for those of every age, nation, and mythology, who

reverence the Deity, are filled with integrity, righteousness, and benevolence. Wishing you every blessing, I am, dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

EZRA STILES.

ANSWER TO THE REVEREND PRESIDENT STILES.

Philadelphia, March 9, 1790.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,

I received your kind letter of January 28, and am glad you have at length received the portrait of Governor Yale from his family, and deposited it in the college library. He was a great and good man, and had the merit of doing infinite service to your country by his munificence to that institution. The honour you propose doing me, by placing mine in the same room with his, is much too great for my deserts; but you always had a partiality for me, and to that it must be ascribed. I am however too much obliged to Yale College, the first learned society that took notice of me and adorned me with its honours, to refuse a request that comes from it through so esteemed a friend. But I do not think any one of the portraits you mention as in my possession worthy of the situation and company you propose to place it in. You have an excellent artist lately arrived. If he will undertake to make one for you, I shall cheerfully pay the expense: but he must not delay setting about it, or I may slip through his fingers, for I am now in my 85th year, and very infirm.

I send with this a very learned work as it seems to me, on the ancient Samaritan Coins, lately printed in Spain, and at least cu-

rious

rious for the beauty of the impression. Please to accept it for your College library. I have subscribed for the Encyclopedia now printing here, with the intention of presenting it to the college. I shall probably depart before the work is finished, but shall leave directions for its continuance to the end. With this you will receive some of the first numbers.

You desire to know something of my religion. It is the first time I have been questioned upon it. But I cannot take your curiosity amiss, and shall endeavour in a few words to gratify it. Here is my creed: I believe in one God, the creator of the universe. That he governs it by his Providence. That he ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable service we render to him is doing good to his other children. That the soul of man is immortal, and will be treated with justice in another life respecting its conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental points in all sound religion, and I regard them as you do in whatever sect I meet with them. As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and his religion as he left them to us, the best the world ever saw or is like to see; but I apprehend it has received various corrupting changes, and I have, with most of the present dissenters in England, some doubts as to his divinity; though it is a question I do not dogmatise upon, having never studied it, and think it needless to busy myself with it now, when I expect soon an opportunity of knowing the truth with less trouble. I see no harm

however in its being believed, if that belief has the good consequence, as probably it has, of making his doctrines more respected and more observed; especially as I do not perceive that the Supreme takes it amiss by distinguishing the unbelievers in his government of the world with any peculiar marks of his displeasure. I shall only add respecting myself, that having experienced the goodness of that being in conducting me prosperously through long life, I have no doubt of its continuance in the next, though without the smallest conceit of meriting such goodness. My sentiments on this head you will see in the copy of an old letter inclosed, which I wrote in answer to one from an old religionist whom I had relieved in a paralytic case by electricity, and who being afraid I should grow proud upon it, sent me his serious though rather impertinent caution. I send you also the copy of another letter, which will show something of my disposition relating to religion. With great and sincere esteem and affection,

I am, &c. B. FRANKLIN.

P S. Had not your college some present of books from the king of France? Please to let me know if you had an expectation given you of more, and the nature of that expectation? I have a reason for the inquiry.

I confide that you will not expose me to criticisms and censures by publishing any part of this communication to you. I have ever let others enjoy their religious sentiments without reflecting on them for those that appeared to me unsupportable or even

even absurd. All sects here, and we have a great variety, have experienced my good will in assisting them with subscriptions for the building their new places of worship, and as I have never opposed any of their doctrines, I hope to go out of the world in peace with them all.

TO THE HONORABLE THOMAS
CUSHING, ESQ.

Project to avoid repealing the American Tea Duty. — Pretended Prussian Edict.

SIR, London, Sept. 12, 1773.

To avoid repealing the American tea duty, and yet find a vent for tea, a project is executing to send it from this country on account of the East India Company, to be sold in America, agreeable to a late act empowering the Lords of the Treasury to grant licences to the company to export tea thither, under certain restrictions, duty free. Some friends of government, (as they are called) of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, &c. are to be favoured with the commission, who undertake by their interest to carry the measure through in the colonies. How the other merchants thus excluded from the tea trade will like this, I cannot foresee. Their agreement, if I remember right, was not to import tea, till the duty shall be repealed. Perhaps they will think themselves still obliged by that agreement notwithstanding this temporary expedient; which is only to introduce the tea for the present, and may be dropped next year, and the duty again required; the granting or refusing such license from time to time remaining

in the power of the treasury. And it will seem hard, while their hands are tied, to see the profits of that article all engrossed by a few particulars.

Enclosed I take the liberty of sending you a small piece of mine, written to expose, in as striking a light as I could, to the nation, the absurdity of the measures towards America, and to spur the ministry, if possible, to a change of those measures.

Please to present my duty to the House, and respects to the committee. I have the honour to be, with much esteem, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

B. FRANKLIN.

[*Enclosed in the foregoing Letter.*]

A PRUSSIAN EDICT, &c.

Dantzic, Sept. 5, 1773.

We have long wondered here at the supineness of the English nation, under the Prussian impositions upon its trade entering our port. We did not, till lately, know the claims, ancient and modern, that hang over that nation; and therefore could not suspect that it might submit to those impressions from a sense of duty, or from principles of equity. The following edict, just made public, may, if serious, throw some light upon this matter:—

“Frederick, by the grace of God, King of Prussia, &c &c. &c. to all present and to come: health. The peace now enjoyed throughout our dominions, having afforded us leisure to apply ourselves to the regulation of commerce, the improvement of our finances, and at the same time the easing our domestic subjects in their taxes: for these

these causes, and other good considerations us thereunto moving, we hereby make known, that after having deliberated these affairs in our council, present our dear brothers, and other great officers of the state, members of the same; we, of our certain knowledge, full power, and authority royal, have made and issued this present edict, viz.

“Whereas it is well known to all the world, that the first German settlements made in the island of Britain, were by colonies of people, subjects to our renowned ducal ancestors, and drawn from their dominions, under the conduct of Hengist, Horsa, Hella, Uffa, Cerdicus, Ida, and others; and that the said colonies have flourished under the protection of our august house, for ages past; have never been emancipated therefrom; and yet have hitherto yielded little profit to the same: and whereas we ourself have in the last war fought for and defended the said colonies, against the power of France, and thereby enabled them to make conquests from the said power in America; for which we have not yet received adequate compensation: and whereas it is just and expedient that a revenue should be raised from the said colonies in Britain, towards our indemnification; and that those who are descendants of our ancient subjects, and thence still owe us due obedience, should contribute to the replenishing of our royal coffers, (as they must have done had their ancestors remained in the territories now to us appertaining): we do therefore hereby ordain and command, that, from and after the date of these presents,

there shall be levied, and paid to our officers of the customs, on all goods, wares, and merchandises, and on all grain and other produce of the earth, exported from the said island of Britain, and on all goods of whatever kind imported into the same, a duty of four and a half per cent. ad valorem, for the use of us and our successors. And that the said duty may more effectually be collected, we do hereby ordain, that all ships or vessels bound from Great Britain to any other part of the world, or from any other part of the world to Great Britain, shall in their respective voyages touch at our port of Koningsberg, there to be unladen, searched, and charged with the said duties.

“And whereas there hath been from time to time discovered in the said island of Great Britain, by our colonists there, many mines or beds of *iron-stone*; and sundry subjects of our ancient dominion, skilful in converting the said stone into metal, have in time past transported themselves thither, carrying with them and communicating that art; and the inhabitants of the said island, presuming that they had a natural right to make the best use they could of the natural productions of their country, for their own benefit, have not only built furnaces for smelting the said stone into iron, but have erected plating-forges, slitting-mills, and steel-furnaces, for the more convenient manufacturing of the same; thereby endangering a diminution of the said manufacture in our ancient dominion; we do therefore hereby farther ordain, That, from and after the date hereof, no mill or other engine for
slitting

slitting or rolling of iron, or any plating-forge to work with a tilt-hammer, or any furnace for making steel, shall be erected or continued in the said island of Great Britain: and the Lord Lieutenant of every county in the said island is hereby commanded, on information of any such erection within his county, to order, and by force to cause the same to be abated and destroyed; as he shall answer the neglect thereof to us at his peril. But we are nevertheless graciously pleased to permit the inhabitants of the said island to transport their iron into Prussia, there to be manufactured, and to them returned; they paying our Prussian subjects for the workmanship, with all the costs of commission, freight, and risk, coming and returning; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

We do not, however, think fit to extend this our indulgence to the article of wool; but meaning to encourage not only the manufacturing of woollen cloth, but also the raising of wool, in our ancient dominions; and to prevent both, as much as may be, in our said island, we do hereby absolutely forbid the transportation of wool thence even to the mother-country, Prussia;—and that those islanders may be farther and more effectually restrained in making any advantage of their own wool, in the way of manufacture, we command that none shall be carried out of one county into another; nor shall any worsted, bay, or woollen yarn, cloth, says, bays, kerseys, serges, frizes, druggets, cloth-serges, shalloons, or any other drapery stuffs, or woollen manufactures whatsoever, made up or

mixed with wool in any of the said counties, be carried into any other county, or be water-borne even across the smallest river or creek; on penalty of forfeiture of the same, together with the boats, carriages, horses, &c. that shall be employed in removing them. Nevertheless, our loving subjects there are hereby permitted (if they think proper) to use all their wool as manure for the improvement of their lands.

“And whereas the art and mystery of making hats hath arrived at great perfection in Prussia; and the making of hats by our remoter subjects ought to be as much as possible restrained: and forasmuch as the islanders before mentioned, being in possession of wool, beaver, and other furs, have presumptuously conceived they had a right to make some advantage thereof, by manufacturing the same into hats, to the prejudice of our domestic manufacture:—we do therefore hereby strictly command and ordain, that no hats or felts whatsoever, dyed or undyed, finished or unfinished, shall be laden or put into or upon any vessel, cart, carriage or horse; to be transported or conveyed out of one county in the said island into any other county, or to any other place whatsoever, by any person or persons whatsoever; on pain of forfeiting the same, with a penalty of five hundred pounds sterling for every offence. Nor shall any hat-maker, in any of the said counties, employ more than two apprentices, on penalty of five pounds sterling per month: we intending hereby that such hat-makers, being so restrained, both in the production and sale of their commodity, may find

find no advantage in continuing their business. But, lest the said islanders should suffer inconvenience by the want of hats, we are further graciously pleased to permit them to send their beaver furs to Prussia; and we also permit hats made thereof to be exported from Prussia to Britain; the people thus favoured to pay all costs and charges of manufacturing, interest, commission to our merchants, insurance and freight going and returning; as in the case of iron.

“And lastly, being willing farther to favour our said colonies in Britain, we do hereby also ordain and command, that all the thieves, highway and street robbers, house-breakers, forgerers, murderers, s—d—tes, and villains of every denomination, who have forfeited their lives to the law in Prussia; but whom we, in our great clemency, do not think fit here to hang; shall be emptied out of our gaols into the said island of Great Britain, for the better peopling of that country.

“We flatter ourselves that these our royal regulations and commands will be thought just and reasonable by our much favoured colonists in England; the said regulations being copied from their statutes of 10 and 11 Will. III. c. 10.—5 Geo. II. c. 22.—23 Geo. II. c. 29.—4 Geo. I. c. 11.—and from other equitable laws made by their parliaments; or from instructions given by their princes, or from resolutions of both houses, entered into for the good government of their own colonies in Ireland and America.

“And all persons in the said

island are hereby cautioned not to oppose in any wise the execution of this our edict, or any part thereof, such opposition being high-treason; of which all who are suspected shall be transported in fetters from Britain to Prussia, there to be tried and executed according to the Prussian law.

Such is Our pleasure.

Given at Potsdam, this twenty-fifth day of the month of August, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-three, and in the thirty-third year of our reign.

By the King, in his council,
RECHTMÆSSIG, Sec.”

Character of the late Robert Fulton, Esq. from Colden's Life of that celebrated Engineer, read before the Literary and Historical Society of New York.

We cannot think that it will be imputed to an undue partiality for our regretted associate, if we say that there cannot be found on the records of departed worth, the name of a person to whose individual exertions mankind are more indebted than they are to the late Robert Fulton. The combined efforts of philosophers and statesmen have improved the condition of man; but no individual has conferred more important benefits on his species than he whose memory now engages our attention.

When we have taken a view of what he has done, and bestowed some consideration on its effects, it will not appear that this praise is exaggerated, and we shall be obliged to acknowledge that
though

though others may have been conducted in the paths of science by superior learning, and may have had a more dazzling career, the labours of no individual have been more honourable, meritorious, or practically useful.

The establishment of steam navigation will form an important epoch in the history of our species. —The name of the man who accomplished it will live to the remotest ages, if he be not robbed of the fame which is due to the employment of a superior genius, with surprising courage, industry, perseverance, and success.

Robert Fulton was born in the town of Little Britain, in the county of Lancaster, and state of Pennsylvania, in the year 1765; he was of a respectable though not opulent family. His father, Robert Fulton, was a native of Kilkenny, in Ireland. His mother was also of a respectable Irish family, by the name of Smith, established in Pennsylvania.

In his infancy he was put to school in Lancaster, in Pennsylvania, where he acquired the rudiments of a common English education.

His peculiar genius manifested itself at a very early age. In his childhood, all his hours of recreation were passed in the shops of mechanics, or in the employment of his pencil; and at this early period of his life he had no other desire for money than to supply himself with the necessary materials to indulge his taste for mechanism and drawing.

By the time he had attained the age of seventeen years, he became so much an artist with his pencil,

as to derive emolument from painting portraits and landscapes, in Philadelphia, where he remained till he was about twenty-one. In this time he had made the acquaintance of our celebrated countryman Doctor Franklin, by whom he was much noticed.

Mr. Fulton throughout his course as a mechanist and civil engineer, derived great advantage from his talent for drawing and painting. He was an elegant and accurate draftsman.

It is gratifying to find, that Mr. Fulton ever felt as an American. His long residence abroad did not enfeeble his attachment to his country. Thoughts of her prosperity and welfare were connected with all his projects; and those that he thought might be of advantage to her, he communicated with a promptness and disinterestedness which marked his desire to serve her.

Ardour and perseverance were characters of Mr. Fulton's mind; when he had conceived what he thought a practicable and beneficial project, he left no means untried, and spared no pains for its accomplishment.

It may be well to notice here, a matter not otherwise of importance, than as it serves to mark the pliancy of Mr. Fulton's mind, and the versatility of his genius. At a time when he was taking a step which, as he thought, would be decisive to the fate of nations, which put his life at risk, and might determine his own fortune, he amused himself with making sketches from the scenery of Holland, and representations of the manners, figures, and costume of the

the Hollanders ; some of them are broad caricatures, which cannot but excite a smile. They are found in his port folio, and though in general they are but sketches, they show that they are from the hand of a master, guided by wit and genius.

Throughout the whole course of his experiments, no opposition or contradiction, no failure or disappointment, irritated, discouraged, or discomposed him. When his machines were broken or disordered, he, with the utmost calmness and composure, pointed out their defects or the causes of his disappointment. If an experiment failed, though it had cost him great pains and labour in the preparation ; and although the failure was frequently, and obviously, owing to the awkwardness or unskilfulness of those who assisted him, his temper could not be disturbed ; he would not hear the scoffs of some of the numerous bystanders, which were frequently expressed in whispers intended to reach his ear. Not a fretful or angry word ever escaped him, and after a disappointment he recommenced his preparations with the same ardour, and with the same calmness, with which he at first began. Even when his physical strength must have been exhausted by his corporeal exertions, and the excessive fatigue he would sometimes undergo through a sultry day, his spirits were never for a moment depressed. On these occasions he showed himself as much a moral as a mechanical philosopher.

We have all witnessed with what zeal Mr. Fulton bestowed

his time, his talents, and his purse, for the promotion of the useful and the fine arts. One of the last acts of his life manifested this disposition. By his will, which was made but a few days before his death, he devised that, in certain events, his pictures, and one half of his property not otherwise disposed of, should go to an academy of fine arts, when such an academy should be established, at the place which may be the seat of the national government.

Mr. Fulton was about six feet high. His person was slender, but well proportioned, and well formed.—Nature had made him a gentleman, and bestowed upon him ease and gracefulness. He had too much good sense for the least affectation ; and a modest confidence in his own worth and talents, gave him an unembarrassed deportment in all companies.—His features were strong, and of a manly beauty : he had large dark eyes, and a projecting brow, expressive of intelligence and thought : his temper was mild, and his disposition lively : he was fond of society, which he always enlivened by cheerful, cordial manners, and instructed or pleased by his sensible conversation :—He expressed himself with energy, fluency, and correctness, and as he owed more to his own experience and reflections, than to books, his sentiments were often interesting from their originality.

In all his domestic and social relations he was zealous, kind, generous, liberal, and affectionate. He knew of no use for money but as it was subservient to charity, hospitality, and the sciences. But
what

what was most conspicuous in his character, was his calm constancy, his industry, and that indefatigable patience and perseverance, which always enabled him to overcome difficulties.

He was decidedly a republican. The determination which he often avowed, that he never would ac-

cept an office, is an evidence of the disinterestedness of his politics; but his zeal for his opinions or party, did not extinguish his kindness for the merits of his opponents. Society will long remember and regret him; but he will be most lamented by those, by whom he was best known.

MANNERS, CUSTOMS, &c.

OF

NATIONS AND CLASSES OF PEOPLE.

DESCRIPTION OF A SERTANEJO.

(From Koster's Travels.)

I MAY give some description of my friend, who turned back to shew me the well, and this may be taken as the usual appearance of a travelling Sertanejo. He rode a small horse with a long tail and mane; his saddle was rather raised before and behind; his stirrups were of rusty iron, and his bit was of the same; the reins were two very narrow thongs. His dress consisted of long pantaloons or leggings, of tanned but undressed leather, of a rusty brown colour, which were tied tight round his waist, and under these are worn a pair of cotton drawers or trowsers, as the seat is left unprotected by the leather. He had a tanned goat-skin over his breast, which was tied behind by four strings, and a jacket also made of leather, which is generally thrown over one shoulder; his hat was of the same, with a very shallow crown, and small brim; he had slip-shod slippers of the same colour, and iron spurs

upon his naked heels,—the straps which go under the feet prevent the risk of losing the slippers. A long whip of twisted thongs hung from his right wrist; he had a sword by his side, hanging from a belt over one shoulder; his knife was in his girdle, and his short dirty pipe in his mouth. Fastened to his saddle behind, was a piece of red baize, rolled up in the form of a great coat, and this usually contains a hammock and a change of linen,—a shirt, and drawers, and perhaps a pair of nankeen pantaloons; his boroacas hung also on each side of the back of his saddle, and these generally contain farinha and dried meat on one side, and on the other a flint and steel, (dried leaves serve as tinder) tobacco, and a spare pipe. To this equipment is sometimes added, a large pistol, thrust partly under the left thigh, and thus secured. The usual pace of the Sertanejo's horse is a walk, approaching to a short trot; so that the horses of these people often have acquired the habit of dragging their hind legs, and throwing up the

the dust. The usual colour of the Sertanejos is a dark brown; for even those who are born white, soon become as completely tanned as the dress which they wear, from exposure to the sun.

The colour of the Sertanejos varies from white, of which there are necessarily few, to a dark brown; the shades of which are almost as various as there are persons: two of exactly the same tint are scarcely to be met with. Children of the same parents rarely if ever are of the same shade; some difference is almost always perceivable, and this is, in many instances, so glaring, as to lead at first to doubts of the authenticity; but it is too general to be aught but what is right. The offspring of white and black persons leans, in most instances, more to one colour than to the other, when perhaps a second child will take a contrary tinge. These remarks do not hold good in the Sertam, but are applicable to all the country which I had opportunities of seeing. The Sertanejo, if colour is set aside, is certainly handsome; and the women, whilst young, have well-shaped forms, and many of them good features; indeed I have seen some of the white persons who would be admired in any country. Their constant exposure to the sun, and its great power at a distance from the sea, darkens the complexion more than if the same persons had resided upon the coast: but this gives them a decided dark colour, which has the appearance of durability, and is much preferable to a sallow sickly look, though of a lighter tint.

THE INDIAN NATIVES.

(From the same.)

The Indians of these villages, and indeed of all those which I passed through, are Christians; though it is said that some few of them follow in secret their own heathenish rites, paying adoration to the *maracà*, and practising all the customs of their religion, if I may use this word, of which so exact a description is given in Mr. Southey's History of Brazil. When the Roman Catholic religion does take root in them, it of necessity degenerates into the most abject superstition. An adherence to superstitious rites, whether of Roman Catholic ordination or prescribed by their own undefined faith, appears to be the only part of their character in which they show any constancy. Each village has its priest, who is oftentimes a vicar, and resident for life upon the spot. A director is also attached to each village, who is supposed to be a white man; he has great power over the persons within his jurisdiction. If a proprietor of land is in want of workmen he applies to the director, who agrees for the price at which the daily labour is to be paid, and he commands his chief Indians to take so many men, and proceed with them to the estate for which they are hired. The labourers receive the money themselves, and expend it as they please; but the bargains thus made are usually below the regular price of labour. Each village has two Juizes Ordinarios or mayors, who act for one year. One Juiz is a white man, and the other an Indian; but it may easily be supposed that the former has,

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in fact, the management. These Juizes have the power of putting suspicious persons into confinement, and of punishing for small crimes; those of more importance wait for the *Correição*, or circuit of the *Ouvidor* of the captaincy. Each village contains a town-hall and prison. The administration of justice in the *Sertão* is generally spoken of as most wretchedly bad; every crime obtains impunity by the payment of a sum of money. An innocent person is sometimes punished through the interest of a great man, whom he may have offended, and the murderer escapes who has the good fortune to be under the protection of a powerful patron. This proceeds still more from the feudal state of the country than from the corruption of the magistrates, who might often be inclined to do their duty, and yet be aware that their exertions would be of no avail, and would possibly prove fatal to themselves. The Indians have likewise their *Capitães-mores*, and this title is conferred for life; it gives the holder some power over his fellows, but as it is among them unaccompanied by the possession of property, the Indian *Capitães-mores* are much ridiculed by the whites; and indeed the half-naked officer with his gold-headed cane is a personage who would excite laughter from the most rigid nerves.

The Indians are in general a quiet and inoffensive people; they have not much fidelity; but although they desert, they will not injure those whom they have served. Their lives are certainly not passed in a pleasant manner under the eye of a director, by

whom they are imperiously treated; consequently it is not surprising that they should do all in their power to leave their villages, and be free from an immediate superior; but even when they have escaped from the irksome dominion of the director, they never settle in one place. The Indian scarcely ever plants for himself, or if he does, rarely waits the crop; he sells his maize or mandioc for half its value, before it is fit to be gathered, and removes to some other district. His favourite pursuits are fishing and hunting; a lake or rivulet will alone induce him to be stationary for any length of time. He has a sort of independent feeling, which makes him spurn at any thing like a wish to deprive him of his own free agency; to the director he submits, because it is out of his power to resist. An Indian can never be persuaded to address the master to whom he may have hired himself, by the term of *Senhor*, though it is made use of by the whites in speaking to each other, and by all other free people in the country; but the negroes also use it in speaking to their masters, therefore the Indian will not; he addresses his temporary master by the term of *amo* or *patram*, protector or patron. The reluctance to use the term of *Senhor* may perhaps have commenced with the immediate descendants of those who were in slavery, and thus the objection may have become traditional. They may refuse to give by courtesy what was once required from them by law. However, if it began in this manner, it is not now continued for the same reason, as none of those with

whom I conversed, and they were very many, appeared to know that their ancestors had been obliged to work as slaves.

The instances of murder committed by Indians are rare. They are pilferers rather than thieves. When they can, they eat immoderately; but if it is necessary, they can live upon a very trifling quantity of food, to which their idleness often reduces them. They are much addicted to liquor, and will dance in a ring, singing some of the monotonous ditties of their own language, and drink for nights and days without ceasing. Their dances are not indecent, as those of Africa. The mulattos consider themselves superior to the Indians, and even the Creole blacks look down upon them; "he is as paltry as an Indian," is a common expression among the lower orders in Brazil. They are vilely indifferent regarding the conduct of their wives and daughters; lying and other vices attached to savage life belong to them. Affection seems to have little hold upon them; they appear to be less anxious for the life and welfare of their children than any other cast of men who inhabit that country. The women however do not, among these semi-barbarians, perform the principal drudgery; if the husband is at home, he fetches water from the rivulet and fuel from the wood; he builds the hut whilst his wife takes shelter in some neighbour's shed. But if they travel, she has her young children to carry, the pots, the baskets, and the excavated gourds, whilst the husband takes his wallet of goat-skin and his hammock rolled up upon

his back, his fishing-net and his arms, and walks in the rear. The children are washed on the day of their birth in the nearest brook or pool of water. Both the men and the women are cleanly in many of their habits, and particularly in those relating to their persons; but in some other matters their customs are extremely disgusting; the same knife is used for all purposes, and with little preparatory cleaning is employed in services of descriptions widely opposite. They do not reject any kind of food, and devour it almost without being cooked; rats and other small vermin, snakes and alligators, are all accepted.

The instinct, for I know not what else to call it, which the Indians possess above other men, in finding their way across a wood to a certain spot on the opposite side without path or apparent mark, is most surprising; they trace footsteps over the dry leaves which lie scattered under the trees. The letter-carriers, from one province to another, are mostly Indians, for from habit they endure great fatigue, and will walk day after day, with little rest, for months together. I have met them with their wallets made of goat-skin upon their shoulders, walking at a regular pace, which is not altered by rough or smooth. Though a horse may outstrip one of these men for the first few days, still if the journey continues long, the Indian will, in the end, arrive before him. If a criminal has eluded the diligence of the police officers, Indians are sent in pursuit of him, as a last resource. It is well known that they will not take him alive; each man

man who sees the offender fires, for they do not wish to have any contention. Nor is it possible for the magistrate to fix upon the individual of the party who shot the criminal; for if any of them are asked who killed him, the answer invariably is, "os homems," "the men."

It is usually said, that a party of Indians will fight tolerably well; but that two or three will take to their heels at the first alarm. Some of them however are resolute, and sufficiently courageous; but the general character is usually supposed to be cowardly, inconstant, devoid of acute feelings, as forgetful of favours as of injuries, obstinate in trifles, regardless of matters of importance. The character of the negro is more decided; it is worse, but it is also better. From the black race the worst of men may be formed; but they are capable likewise of great and good actions. The Indian seems to be without energy or exertion; devoid of great good or great evil. Much may at the same time be said in their favour; they have been unjustly dealt with, they have been trampled upon, and afterwards treated as children; they have been always subjected to those who consider themselves their superiors, and this desire to govern them has even been carried to the direction of their domestic arrangements. But no,—if they are a race of acute beings, capable of energy, of being deeply interested upon any subject, they would do more than they have done. The priesthood is open to them; but they do not take

advantage of it. I never saw an Indian mechanic in any of the towns; there is no instance of a wealthy Indian; rich mulattos and negroes are by no means rare. I have had many dealings with them as guides and carriers, and subsequently as labourers, and have no reason to complain, for I was never injured by any of them; but neither did I receive any particular service, excepting in the instance of Julio. For guides and carriers they are well adapted; as their usual habits lead them to the rambling life which these employments encourage. As labourers, I found that they had usually a great inclination to overreach; but their schemes were badly made, and consequently easily discovered. I never could depend upon them for any length of time, and to advance money or clothing to them is a certain loss. If I had any labour which was to be performed by a given time, the overseer would always reckon upon his mulatto and negro free people; but did not mention in the list of persons who were to work, any of the Indians whom I was then employing; and on my speaking of them, he answered "An Indian is only to be mentioned for the present day," meaning that no reliance is to be placed upon them.

Like most of the aboriginal inhabitants of the western hemisphere, these people are of a copper colour. They are short, and stoutly made; but their limbs, though large, have not the appearance of possessing great strength; they have no show of muscle. The face is disproportionately broad, the nose flat, the mouth wide, the eyes deep and small, the

hair black, coarse, and lank ; none of the men have whiskers, and their beards are not thick. The women, when they are young, have by no means an unpleasant appearance ; but they soon fall off, and become ugly ; their figures are seldom well shaped. Deformity is rare among the Indians ; I do not recollect to have seen an individual of this race who had been born defective ; and the well-informed persons with whom I conversed were of opinion, that the Indians are more fortunate in this respect than any other race with whom they were acquainted. All the Indians of Pernambuco speak Portuguese, but few of them pronounce it well ; there is always a certain twang which discovers the speaker to be an Indian, although the voice was heard without the person being seen ; many of them however do not understand any other language. The Indians seldom if ever speak Portuguese so well as the generality of the Creole negroes.

It must be perfectly understood, that although there may be some unfair dealings occasionally of the director towards the Indian, still this race cannot be enslaved ; the Indian cannot be made to work for any person against his inclination, he cannot be bought and sold. An Indian will sometimes make over his child, when very young, to a rich person to be taught some trade, or to be brought up as a household servant, but as soon as the child is of an age to provide for itself, it cannot be prevented from so doing ; it may leave the person under whose care it has been placed if it be so inclined

Two Indians presented themselves at the gate of the Carmelite convent of Goiana, and requested and were permitted to see the prior. They put into his hands a purse containing several gold coins, saying that they had found it near Dous Rios ; they begged that he would order a number of masses to be said in their behalf, which were to be paid for from the contents of the purse. The prior, admiring their honesty, asked one of them to remain with him as his servant, to which the man agreed. The friar was in the habit of going into the country to a friend's house to shoot. On one occasion, after the Indian had served him for some time, he left the convent, and took him on one of these expeditions, but when they were about half way, the friar discovered that he had forgotten his powder-horn ; he gave the key of his trunk to the Indian, and desired him to fetch the powder whilst he proceeded. In vain he waited at his friend's house for his servant, and on his return to the convent in the evening he heard that he was not there. He went immediately to his cell, supposing that he had been robbed of all his money, and whatever else the fellow could carry off ; but to his joy he discovered on examination, that the man had only taken the powder-horn, two silver coins of about 4s. value each, an old clerical gown, and a pair of worn-out nankeen pantaloons. This story I had from an intimate friend of the prior.

The free population of Brazil at the present time consists of Europeans ; Brazilians, that is, white persons born in Brazil ; mulattos, that

that is, the mixed cast between the whites and blacks, and all the varieties into which it can branch; mamalucos, that is, the mixed cast between the whites and Indians, and all its varieties; Indians in a domesticated state, who are called generally Caboclos; and those who still remain in a savage state, and are called generally Tapuyas; negroes born in Brazil, and manumitted Africans; lastly, Mestizos, that is, the mixed cast between the Indians and negroes. Of slaves, I shall speak by-and-by more at large; these are Africans, creole negroes, mulattos, and mestizos. The maxim of the civil law, *partus sequitur ventrem*, is in force here as well as in the colonies of other nations.

These several mixtures of the human race have their shades of difference of character as well as of colour. First we must treat of the whites. The Europeans who are not in office, or who are not military men, are, generally speaking, adventurers who have arrived in that country with little or no capital. These men commence their career in low situations of life, but by parsimony and continual exertion directed to one end, that of amassing money, they often attain their object, and pass the evening of their lives in opulence. These habits fail not, oftentimes, to give a bias to their dispositions, which is unallied to generosity and liberality. They look down upon the Brazilians, or rather they wish to consider themselves superior to them; and until lately the government took no pains to remove the jealousy which existed between the two descriptions of white persons;

and even now, not so much attention is paid to the subject as its great importance seems to require.

The Brazilian white man of large property, who draws his descent from the first donatory of a province, or whose family has for some generations enjoyed distinction, entertains a high opinion of his own importance, which may sometimes appear ridiculous; but which much oftener leads him to acts of generosity,—to the adoption of liberal ideas,—to honourable conduct. If he has been well educated, and has had the good fortune to have been instructed by a priest whose ideas are enlightened, who gives a proper latitude for difference of opinion, who tolerates as he is tolerated, then the character of a young Brazilian exhibits much to admire. Surrounded by numerous relatives, and by his immediate dependants, living in a vast and half-civilised country, he is endued with much independence of language and behaviour, which are softened by the subordination which has been imbibed during his course of education. That this is general, I pretend not to say; few persons are instructed in a proper manner; and again, few are those who profit by the education which they have received; but more numerous are the individuals who now undergo necessary tuition, for powerful motives have arisen to urge the attainment of knowledge.

I have heard it often observed, and I cannot help saying that I think some truth is to be attached to the remark, in the country of which I am treating, that women are usually less lenient to their slaves than men, but this doubtless

less proceeds from the ignorant state in which they are brought up; they scarcely receive any education; and have not the advantages of obtaining instruction from communication with persons who are unconnected with their own way of life; of imbibing new ideas from general conversation. They are born, bred, and continue, surrounded by slaves without receiving any check, with high notions of superiority, without any thought that what they do is wrong. Bring these women forwards, educate them, treat them as rational, as equal beings, and they will be in no respect inferior to their countrymen; the fault is not with the sex, but in the state of the human being. As soon as a child begins to crawl, a slave of about its own age and of the same sex is given to it as a playfellow, or rather as a plaything; they grow up together, and the slave is made the stock upon which the young owner gives vent to passion; the slave is sent upon all errands, and receives the blame of all unfortunate accidents; in fact the white child is thus encouraged to be overbearing, owing to the false fondness of its parents. Upon the boys the effect is less visible in after-life, because the world curbs and checks them, but the girls do not stir from home, and therefore have no opportunities of wearing off these pernicious habits. It is only surprising that so many excellent women should be found among them, and by no means strange that the disposition of some of them should be injured by this unfortunate direction of their infant years.

As vegetation rapidly advances

in such climates, so the animal sooner arrives at maturity than in those of less genial warmth; and here again education is rendered doubly necessary to lead the mind to new ideas, to curb the passions, to give a sense of honour, and to instil feelings of that species of pride which is so necessary to a becoming line of conduct. The state of society, the climate, and the celibacy of the numerous priesthood, cause the number of illegitimate children to be very great; but here the *roda dos engeitados*, and a custom which shows the natural goodness of the people, prevent the frequent occurrence of infanticide, or rather render it almost unknown. An infant is frequently during the night laid at the door of a rich person, and on being discovered in the morning is taken in, and is almost invariably allowed to remain; it is brought up with the children of the house (if its colour is not too dark to admit of this), certainly as a dependant, but not as a servant; however a considerable tinge of colour will not prevent it from being reared with the white children. These *engeitados*, or rejected ones, as individuals who are so circumstanced are called, are frequently to be met with, and I heard of few exceptions to the general kindness with which they are treated. Public feeling is much against the refusing to accept and rear an *engeitado*; the owner of a house, who is in easy circumstances, and yet sends the infant from his own door to the public institution which is provided for its reception, is generally spoken of in terms of indignation. Sometimes a poor man will find one of these presents at

at his door, and he will generally place it at the landholder's threshold on the following night: this is accounted excusable and even meritorious, for at the great house the child has nearly a certainty of being well taken care of.

I have observed that, generally speaking, Europeans are less indulgent to their slaves than Brazilians; the former feed them well, but they require from the poor wretches more labour than they can perform, whilst the latter allow the affairs of their estates to continue in the way in which it has been accustomed to be directed. This difference between the two descriptions of owners is easily accounted for; the European has probably purchased part of his slaves on credit, and has during the whole course of his life made the accumulation of riches his chief object. The Brazilian inherits his estate, and as nothing urges him to the necessity of obtaining large profits, he continues the course that has been pointed out to him by the former possessors. His habits of quietude and indolence have led him to be easy and indifferent, and although he may not provide for the maintenance of his slaves with so much care as the European, still they find more time to seek for food themselves. That avaricious spirit which deliberately works a man or a brute animal until it is unfit for farther service, without any regard to the well-being of the creature, which is thus treated as a mere machine, as if it was formed of wood or iron, is however seldom to be met with in those parts of the country which I visited. In-

stances of cruelty occur, (as has been, and will yet be seen,) but these proceed from individual depravity, and not from systematic, cold-blooded, calculating indifference to the means by which a desired end is to be compassed.

Notwithstanding the relationship of the mulattos on one side to the black race, they consider themselves superior to the mamulucos; they lean to the whites, and from the light in which the Indians are held, pride themselves upon being totally unconnected with them. Still the mulattos are conscious of their connection with men who are in a state of slavery, and that many persons even of their own colour are under these degraded circumstances; they have therefore always a feeling of inferiority in the company of white men, if these white men are wealthy and powerful. This inferiority of rank is not so much felt by white persons in the lower walks of life, and these are more easily led to become familiar with individuals of their own colour who are in wealthy circumstances. Still the inferiority which the mulatto feels is more that which is produced by poverty than that which his colour has caused, for he will be equally respectful to a person of his own cast who may happen to be rich. The degraded state of the people of colour in the British colonies is most lamentable. In Brazil, even the trifling regulations which exist against them remain unattended to. A mulatto enters into holy orders or is appointed a magistrate, his papers stating him to be a white man, but his appearance plainly denoting the contrary.

trary. In conversing on one occasion with a man of colour who was in my service, I asked him if a certain Capitam-mor was not a mulatto man; he answered, "he was, but is not now." I begged him to explain, when he added, "Can a Capitam-mor be a mulatto man?" I was intimately acquainted with a priest, whose complexion and hair plainly denoted from whence he drew his origin; I liked him much: he was a well-educated and intelligent man. Besides this individual instance, I met with several others of the same description.

The regiments of militia, which are called mulatto regiments, are so named from all the officers and men being of mixed casts; nor can white persons be admitted into them. The principal officers are men of property; and the colonel, like the commander of any other regiment, is only amenable to the governor of the province. In the white militia regiments, the officers ought to be by law white men; but in practice they are rather reputed white men, for very little pains are taken to prove that there is no mixture of blood. Great numbers of the soldiers belonging to the regiments which are officered by white men, are mulattos, and other persons of colour. The regiments of the line, likewise, (as I have elsewhere said,) admit into the ranks all persons excepting negroes and Indians; but the officers of these must prove nobility of birth; however, as certain degrees of nobility have been conferred upon persons in whose families there is much mixture of

blood, this proof cannot be regarded as being required against the mulatto or mamaluco part of the population. Thus an European adventurer could not obtain a commission in these regiments, whilst a Brazilian, whose family has distinguished itself in the province in former times, will prove his eligibility without regard to the blood which runs in his veins. He is noble, let that flow from whence it may.

The late colonel of the mulatto regiment of Recife, by name Nogueira, went to Lisbon, and returned to Pernambuco with the order of Christ, which the Queen had conferred upon him. A chief person of one of the provinces is the son of a white man and a woman of colour; he has received an excellent education, is of a generous disposition, and entertains most liberal views upon all subjects. He has been made a colonel, and a degree of nobility has been conferred upon him; likewise the Regent is sponsor to one of his children. Many other instances might be mentioned. Thus has Portugal, of late years from policy, continued that system into which she was led by her peculiar circumstances in former times. Some of the wealthy planters of Pernambuco, and of the rich inhabitants of Recife, are men of colour. The major part of the best mechanics are also of mixed blood.

It is said that mulattos make bad masters; and this holds good oftentimes with persons of this description, who have been in a state of slavery, and become possessed of slaves of their own, or are employed as managers upon estates.

estates. The change of situation would lead to the same consequences in any race of human beings, and cannot be accounted peculiar to the mixed casts. I have seen mulattos of free birth as kind, as lenient, and as forbearing to their slaves and other dependants as any white man.

Marriages between white men and women of colour are by no means rare, though they are sufficiently so to cause the circumstance to be mentioned when speaking of an individual who has connected himself in this manner; but this is not said with the intent of lowering him in the estimation of others. Indeed the remark is only made if the person is a planter of any importance, and the woman is decidedly of dark colour, for even a considerable tinge will pass for white; if the white man belongs to the lower orders, the woman is not accounted as being unequal to him in rank, unless she is nearly black. The European adventurers often marry in this manner, which generally occurs when the woman has a dower. The rich mulatto families are often glad to dispose of their daughters to these men, although the person who has been fixed upon may be in indifferent circumstances; for the colour of the children of their daughters is bettered, and from the well-known prudence and regularity of this set of men, a very large fortune may be hoped for even from very small beginnings. Whilst I was at Jaguaribe, I was in the frequent habit of seeing a handsome young man, who was a native of the island of St. Michael's. This person happened to

be with me on one occasion when the commandant from the Sertam was staying at my house. The commandant asked him if he could read and write, and being answered in the negative, said, "Then you will not do," and turning to me, added, "I have a commission from a friend of mine to take with me back to the Sertam a good-looking young Portuguese of regular habits, who can read and write, for the purpose of marrying him to his daughter." These kind of commissions (*encomendas*) are not unusual.

Still the Brazilians of high birth and large property do not like to intermarry with persons whose mixture of blood is very apparent, and hence arise peculiar circumstances. A man of this description becomes attached to a woman of colour, connects himself with her, and takes her to his home, where she is in a short time even visited by married women; she governs his household affairs, acts and considers herself as his wife, and frequently after the birth of several children, when they are neither of them young, he marries her. In connections of this nature, the parties are more truly attached than in marriages between persons who belonged to two families of the first rank; for the latter are entered into from convenience rather than from affection; indeed the parties, on some occasions, do not see each other until a few days before the ceremony takes place. It often occurs, that inclination, necessity, or convenience induce or oblige a man to separate from the person with whom he has thus been connected;

nected ; in this case, he gives her a portion, and she marries a man of her own rank, who regards her rather as a widow than as one whose conduct has been incorrect. Instances of infidelity in these women are rare ; they become attached to the men with whom they cohabit, and they direct the affairs of the houses over which they are placed with the same zeal that they would display if they had the right of command over them. It is greatly to the credit of the people of that country that so much fidelity should be shown on one side, and that this should so frequently, as it is, be rewarded by the other party, in the advancement of those who have behaved thus faithfully, to a respectable and acknowledged situation in society. It should be recollected, too, that the merit of moral feelings must be judged of by the standard of the country, and not by our own institutions. I have only spoken above of what occurs among the planters ; for in large towns man is pretty much the same every where.

The Mamalucos are more frequently to be seen in the Sertam than upon the coast. They are handsomer than the mulattos ; and the women of this cast particularly surpass in beauty all others of the country ; they have the brown tint of mulattos, but their features are less blunt, and their hair is not curled. I do not think that the men can be said to possess more courage than the mulattos ; but whether from the knowledge which they have of being of free birth on both sides, or from residing in the interior of the country where government is more loose,

they appear to have more independence of character, and to pay less deference to a white man than the mulattos. When women relate any deed of danger that has been surmounted or undertaken, they generally state that the chief actor in it was a large mamaluco, mamalucam ; as if they thought this description of men to be superior to all others. Mamalucos may enter into the mulatto regiments, and are pressed into the regiments of the line as being men of colour, without any regard to the sources from which their blood proceeds.

Of the domesticated Indians I have already elsewhere given what accounts I could collect, and what I had opportunities of observing. The wild Indians are now only to be met with at a great distance from the coast of Pernambuco ; and although they are very near to Maranhão, and are dreaded neighbours, I had no means of seeing any of them.

I now proceed to mention that numerous and valuable race of men, the creole negroes ; a tree of African growth, which has thus been transplanted, cultivated, and much improved by its removal to the New World. The creole negroes stand alone and unconnected with every other race of men, and this circumstance alone would be sufficient, and indeed contributes much to the effect of uniting them to each other. The mulattos, and all other persons of mixed blood, wish to lean towards the whites, if they can possibly lay any claim to relationship. Even the mestizo tries to pass for a mulatto, and to persuade himself, and others, that his veins contain some portion of
white

white blood, although that with which they are filled proceeds from Indian and negro sources. Those only who can have no pretensions to a mixture of blood, call themselves negroes, which renders the individuals who do pass under this denomination much attached to each other, from the impossibility of being mistaken for members of any other cast. They are of handsome persons, brave, and hardy, obedient to the whites, and willing to please; but they are easily affronted, and the least allusion to their colour being made by a person of a lighter tint, enrages them to a great degree; though they will sometimes say, "A negro I am, but always upright." They are again distinct from their brethren in slavery, owing to their superior situation as free men.

The free creole negroes have their exclusive regiments, as well as the mulattos, of which every officer and soldier must be perfectly black. There are two of these regiments for the province of Pernambuco, which consist of indefinite numbers of men, who are dispersed all over the country. These regiments are distinguished from each other by the names of Old Henriques and New Henriques. The name of Henriques is derived from the famous chieftain, Henrique Diaz, in the time of the Dutch war. I have heard some of the most intelligent of those with whom I have conversed, speak in enthusiastic terms of the aid which he gave to the whites in that struggle. I have seen some portion of one of these regiments in Recife, accompanying the procession of our Lady of the

Rosary, the patroness of negroes. They were dressed in white cloth uniforms, turned up with scarlet, and they looked very soldier-like. They were in tolerable discipline, and seemed to wish to go through the duty of the day in the best manner that they were able; they acted with an appearance of zeal and the desire of excelling. Those of which I speak formed a finer body of men than any other soldiers which I had an opportunity of seeing in that country. On gala days the superior black officers in their white uniforms, pay their respects to the governor, exactly in the same manner that the persons of any other cast, holding commissions of equal rank, are expected to go through this form. These men receive no pay, so that their neat appearance on such occasions bespeaks a certain degree of wealth among them; neither are the privates nor any other person belonging to these regiments paid for their services. Some of the whites rather ridicule the black officers, but not in their presence; and the laugh which is raised against them is caused perhaps by a lurking wish to prevent this insulted race from the display of those distinctions which the government has wisely conceded to them, but which hurt the European ideas of superiority. The old regiment of Henriques was, at the time that I resided in Pernambuco, without a colonel, and I heard much discussion on several occasions among the creole negroes, about the fittest person to be appointed to the vacant situation.

The creole negroes of Recife are, generally speaking, mechanics of all descriptions; but they have not

not yet reached the higher ranks of life, as gentlemen, as planters, and as merchants. Some of them have accumulated considerable sums of money, and possess many slaves, to whom they teach their own trade, or these slaves are taught other mechanical employments by which they may become useful. They work for their owners, and render to them great profits, for every description of labour is high, and that which requires any degree of skill bears even a higher comparative value than the departments of which a knowledge is more easily attained. The best church and image painter of Pernambuco is a black man, who has good manners, and quite the air of a man of some importance, though he does not by any means assume too much. The negroes are excluded from the priesthood, and from the offices which the mulattos may obtain through their evasion of the law, but which the decided and unequivocal colour of the negro entirely precludes him from aspiring to. In law all persons who are not white, and are born free, class equally; manumitted slaves are placed upon the same footing as persons born free. However, although the few exclusions which exist against the negroes are degrading, still in some instances they are befriended by them. They are unable, owing to their colour, to serve in the regiments of the line, or in any regiments excepting those which are exclusively their own; but by means of this regulation they escape the persecutions under which the other casts suffer during the time of recruiting. The officers and men

of the Henrique regiments are so united to each other, that the privates and subalterns are less liable to be oppressed by any white man in office even than the soldiers of the mulatto regiments. Of these latter the officers, having a considerable tinge of white, sometimes lean towards the wishes of the capitam-mor, or some other rich white officer, instead of protecting his soldiers.

The men whose occupation it is to apprehend runaway negroes, are, almost without exception, creole blacks; they are called capitaens-do-campo, captains of the field; and are subject to a capitam-mor-do-campo who resides in Recife, and they receive their commissions either from the governor or from this officer. By these they are authorised to apprehend and take to their owners any slaves who may be found absent from their homes without their master's consent. Several of these men are to be found in every district, employing themselves in such pursuits as they think fit, when their services are not required in that calling which forms their particular duty. They are men of undaunted courage, and are usually followed by two or three dogs, which are trained to seek out, and if necessary to attack and bring to the ground those persons whose apprehension their masters are desirous of effecting. The men who bear these commissions can oblige any unauthorised person to give up to them an apprehended negro, for the purpose of being by them returned to his owner.

It is scarcely necessary to name the mestizos, for they usually class with

with the mulattos; nor are they to be easily distinguished from some of the darker varieties of this cast. A dark-coloured man of a disagreeable countenance and badly formed person is commonly called a mestizo, without any reference to his origin.

Yet one race of human beings remain to be spoken of; but the individuals who compose it are not sufficiently numerous to permit them to take their place among the several great divisions of the human family which form the population of Brazil, and therefore I did not rank this among the others which are of more importance. Still the *çiganos*, for thus they are called, must not be forgotten. I frequently heard of these people, but never had an opportunity of seeing any of them. Parties of *çiganos* were in the habit of appearing formerly once every year at the village of Pasmado, and other places in that part of the country; but the late governor of the province was inimical to them, and some attempts having been made to apprehend some of them, their visits were discontinued. They are represented as being a people of a brownish cast, with features which resemble those of white persons, and as being tall and handsome. They wander from place to place in parties of men, women, and children; exchanging, buying, and selling horses, and gold and silver trinkets. The women travel on horseback, sitting between the panniers of the loaded horses, and the young ones are placed within the panniers among the baggage. The men are excellent horsemen, and although the packhorses may

be overburthened, these fellows will only accommodate matters by riding slowly upon their own horses, and never think of dividing the loads more equally; but they preserve themselves and the animals upon which they ride quite unencumbered. They are said to be unmindful of all religious observances; and never to hear mass or confess their sins. It is likewise said that they never marry out of their own nation.

SLAVERY.

(From the same.)

The general equity of the laws regarding free persons of colour in the Portuguese South-American possessions, has been to a certain degree extended to that portion of the population which is in a state of slavery; and the lives of the slaves of Brazil have been rendered less hard and less intolerable than those of the degraded beings who drag on their cheerless existence under the dominion of other nations. The Brazilian slave is taught the religion of his master, and hopes are held out of manumission from his own exertions; but still he is a slave, and must be guided by another man's will, and this feeling alone takes away much of the pleasure that would be felt from the faithful discharge of his duty, if it was voluntarily performed. The consciousness that if the directions were not willingly attended to, the arbitrary will of the master would enforce their performance, removes much of the desire to please; obedience to a command is not required with any idea that refusal can possibly ensue, and therefore no merit is attached

attached to its accomplishment by him whose orders are obeyed ; nor does the slave feel that he is doing in any degree more than would be enforced if he had made any doubts. The world has heard so much, and from so many quarters, of the enormities which have been committed by slave-owners in the colonies with which England has had any communication ; both from her own possessions, and from those of other nations, that no doubts can be entertained of their existence. That such evil deeds are of frequent occurrence, I would not wish to suppose, though that they are dreadfully too frequent is too well known ; I had rather not be persuaded that a man in so depraved a state is often to be met with ;—that many civilized beings should have made such rapid returns to barbarism. I have to say, that in Brazil, too, such instances of barbarity are spoken of—that they do exist ; they are, however, of rare occurrence, they are seldom heard of, and are always mentioned with abhorrence ; but it is enough that instances should be recorded, of the abuse of this absolute power of one man over another ; it is enough that this absolute power itself should be allowed to continue, to render the system upon which it is founded an evil of such great importance, as to sanction all exertions for its removal, as to make any government overlook many inconveniences rather than increase the numbers of those human beings who suffer this dreadful degradation.

The Indian slavery has been for many years abolished in Brazil, and the individuals who are now

in bondage in that country are Africans, and their descendants on both sides, or individuals whose mothers are of African origin ; and no line is drawn at which the near approach to the colour and blood of the whites entitles the child, whose mother is a slave, to freedom. I have seen several persons who were to all appearance of white origin, still doomed to slavery.

Slaves, however, in Brazil have many advantages over their brethren in the British colonies. The numerous holidays of which the Catholic religion enjoins the observance, give to the slave many days of rest or time to work for his own profit ; thirty-five of these, and the Sundays besides, allow him to employ much of his time as he pleases. Few masters are inclined to restrain the right of their slaves to dispose of these days as they think fit, or at any rate few dare, whatever their inclinations may be, to brave public opinion in depriving them of the intervals from work which the law has set apart as their own, that their lives may be rendered less irksome. The time which is thus afforded enables the slave, who is so inclined, to accumulate a sum of money ; however this is by law his master's property, from the incapability under which a slave labours of possessing any thing which he by right can call his own. But I believe there is no instance on record in which a master attempted to deprive his slave of these hard-earned gains. The slave can oblige his master to manumit him, on tendering to him the sum for which he was first purchased, or the price for which

which he might be sold, if that price is higher than what the slave was worth at the time he was first bought. This regulation, like every one that is framed in favour of slaves, is liable to be evaded, and the master sometimes does refuse to manumit a valuable slave; and no appeal is made by the sufferer, owing to the state of law in that country, which renders it almost impossible for the slave to gain a hearing; and likewise this acquiescence in the injustice of the master proceeds from the dread, that if he was not to succeed he would be punished, and that his life might be rendered more miserable than it was before. Consequently a great deal depends upon the inclinations of the master, who will however be very careful in refusing to manumit, owing to the well known opinion of every priest in favour of this regulation, to the feelings of the individuals of his own class in society, and to those of the lower orders of the people, and likewise he will be afraid of losing his slave; he may escape with his money, and the master will then run much risk of never seeing him again, particularly if the individual is a creole slave. In general therefore no doubts are urged, when application is made for manumission by a slave to his master; who is indeed oftentimes prepared for it by the habits of industry and regularity of his slave, and by common report among the other slaves and free persons upon the estate, that the individual in question is scraping together a sum of money for this purpose. The master might indeed deprive the slave of the fruits of his own la-

bour, but this is never thought of, because the slave preserves his money in a secret place, or has intrusted it to some person upon whom he can depend, and would suffer any punishment rather than disclose the spot in which his wealth lies concealed. A still more forcible reason than any other, for the forbearance of the master, is to be found in the dread of acting against public opinion; in the shame which would follow the commission of such an act; and perhaps the natural goodness which exists in almost every human being, would make him shun such gross injustice, would make him avoid such a deed of baseness.

A slave is often permitted by his owner to seek a master more to his liking; for this purpose a note is given, declaring that the bearer has leave to enter into the service of any one, upon the price which the master demands being paid by the purchaser. With this the slave applies to any individual of property whom he may wish to serve; owing to having heard a good report of his character towards his slaves, or from any other cause. This is a frequent practice, and at least admits the possibility of escape from a severe state of bondage to one that is less irksome.

A considerable number of slaves are manumitted at the death of their masters, and indeed some persons of large property fail not to set at liberty a few of them during their own lifetime. A deed of manumission, however simply it may be drawn out, cannot be set aside; a register of these papers is preserved at the office of every notary-public, by
which

which any distress which might be occasioned by the loss of the originals is provided against, for the copy of course holds good in law. A slave who has brought into the world, and has reared ten children, ought to be free, for so the law ordains; but this regulation is generally evaded; and besides, the number of children is too great for many women to be enabled to be benefited by it. The price of a new-born child is 5*l.* (20,000 *mil-reis*) and the master is obliged to manumit the infant at the baptismal font, on the sum being presented. In this manner a considerable number of persons are set at liberty, for the smallness of the price enables many freemen who have connections with female slaves to manumit their offspring; and instances occur of the sponsors performing this most laudable act. Not unfrequently female slaves apply to persons of consideration to become sponsors to their children, in the hopes that the pride of these will be too great to allow of their god-child remaining in slavery. Thus by their own exertions, by the favour of their masters, and by other means, the individuals who gain their freedom annually are very numerous.

The comforts of slaves in different situations are widely disproportionate; whilst some are doomed to an existence of excessive toil and misery, from the nature of their occupations and the characters of their masters, others lead a comparatively easy life. It is true, that in countries of which the workmen are free, the daily labour is unequally divided, but their wages are proportioned accordingly, and as each man is a

free agent he seeks that employment to which his bodily and mental powers are befitted. The slave is purchased for a certain purpose, and is to follow the line of life which his master has chalked out for him; he is not to be occupied in that which he would himself prefer, or at any rate his wishes are not consulted upon the subject. The price for which a slave is to be obtained, and the convenience of the purchaser, are oftener consulted than the fitness of his bodily strength to the labour which it is his lot to be ordered to perform. Besides the obligation of following an unsuitable trade, or at any rate of following one which he has not chosen, he has to endure the still incomparably greater grievance of bearing with a tyrannical, an inconsiderate, or a peevish master, whose commands are not to be called in question, whose will is absolute, and from whom the possibility of appeal is far removed, and that of redress placed at a still greater distance. Masters are punished by the payment of fines, for cruelty to their slaves, if any account of such behaviour should reach the ear of the Ouvidor of the province; but I never heard of punishment having been carried farther than this trifling manner of correction. The emoluments which proceed from this mode of chastising the offenders weigh heavily in its favour; the injury which the slave has received is not, I am afraid, the only cause which urges the exaction of the stipulated penalty; of this the slave does not receive any part.

All slaves in Brazil follow the religion of their masters; and not-

notwithstanding the impure state in which the Christian church exists in that country, still such are the beneficent effects of the Christian religion, that these, its adopted children, are improved by it to an infinite degree; and the slave who attends to the strict observance of religious ceremonies invariably proves to be a good servant. The Africans who are imported from Angola are baptized in lots before they leave their own shores, and on their arrival in Brazil they are to learn the doctrines of the church, and the duties of the religion into which they have entered. These bear the mark of the royal crown upon their breasts, which denotes that they have undergone the ceremony of baptism, and likewise that the king's duty has been paid upon them. The slaves which are imported from other parts of the coast of Africa, arrive in Brazil unbaptized, and before the ceremony of making them Christians can be performed upon them, they must be taught certain prayers, for the acquirement of which one year is allowed to the master, before he is obliged to present the slave at the parish-church. This law is not always strictly adhered to as to time, but it is never evaded altogether. The religion of the master teaches him that it would be extremely sinful to allow his slave to remain a heathen; and indeed the Portuguese and Brazilians have too much religious feeling to let them neglect any of the ordinances of their church. The slave himself likewise wishes to be made a Christian, for his fellow-bondmen will in every squabble or trifling disagreement with him, close their

string of opprobrious epithets with the name of *pagam* (pagan). The unbaptised negro feels that he is considered as an inferior being, and although he may not be aware of the value which the whites place upon baptism, still he knows that the stigma for which he is upbraided will be removed by it; and therefore he is desirous of being made equal to his companions. The Africans who have been long imported, imbibe a Catholic feeling, and appear to forget that they were once in the same situation themselves. The slaves are not asked whether they will be baptized or not; their entrance into the Catholic church is treated as a thing of course; and indeed they are not considered as members of society, but rather as brute animals, until they can lawfully go to mass, confess their sins, and receive the sacrament.

The slaves have their religious brotherhoods as well as the free persons; and the ambition of a slave very generally aims at being admitted into one of these, and at being made one of the officers and directors of the concerns of the brotherhood; even some of the money which the industrious slave is collecting for the purpose of purchasing his freedom will oftentimes be brought out of its concealment for the decoration of a saint, that the donor may become of importance in the society to which he belongs. The negroes have one invocation of the Virgin (or I might almost say one virgin) which is peculiarly their own. Our Lady of the Rosary is even sometimes painted with a black face and hands. It is in this manner that the slaves are led to place their

their attention upon an object in which they soon take an interest, but from which no injury can proceed towards themselves, nor can any through its means be by them inflicted upon their masters. Their ideas are removed from any thought of the customs of their own country, and are guided into a channel of a totally different nature, and completely unconnected with what is practised there. The election of a king of Congo (which I have mentioned in chapter xiii.) by the individuals who come from that part of Africa, seems indeed as if it would give them a bias towards the customs of their native soil; but the Brazilian Kings of Congo worship Our Lady of the Rosary, and are dressed in the dress of white men; they and their subjects dance, it is true, after the manner of their country; but to these festivals are admitted African negroes of other nations, creole blacks, and mulattos, all of whom dance after the same manner; and these dances are now as much the national dances of Brazil as they are of Africa. The Portuguese language is spoken by all the slaves, and their own dialects are allowed to lie dormant until they are by many of them quite forgotten. No compulsion is resorted to to make them embrace the habits of their masters, but their ideas are insensibly led to imitate and adopt them. The masters at the same time imbibe some of the customs of their slaves, and thus the superior and his dependant are brought nearer to each other. I doubt not that the system of baptising the newly-imported negroes proceeded rather from the bigotry of the Portuguese in former times

than from any political plan; but it has had the most beneficial effects. The slaves are rendered more tractable; besides being better men and women, they become more obedient servants; they are brought under the control of the priesthood; and even if this was the only additional hold which was gained by their entrance into the church, it is a great engine of power which is thus brought into action.

But in no circumstance has the introduction of the Christian religion among the slaves been of more service than in the change which it has wrought in the men regarding the treatment of their women, and in the conduct of the females themselves. A writer of great reputation on West Indian affairs, states that the introduction of the marriage ceremony among the slaves of the colonies of which he treats "would be utterly impracticable to any good purpose;" and again, that he who conceives that a remedy may be found for polygamy "by introducing among them the laws of marriage, as established in Europe, is utterly ignorant of their manners, propensities, and superstitions." Is it not that by the masters these things are considered to be of little importance, and therefore unworthy of much trouble? As long as the work is done, little else is thought of. Where the interest of the master is concerned, the "manners, propensities, and superstitions," will soon be overcome. I hope that at the present day such opinions do not generally exist. All men in the same state of barbarism treat their women in the same manner; the evil lies not with

with the race of beings, but in the dreadful situation to which this one is reduced. Why, therefore, not attempt to improve and to benefit the individuals of which it is composed?

The slaves of Brazil are regularly married according to the forms of the Catholic church; the bans are published in the same manner as those of free persons; and I have seen many happy couples (as happy at least as slaves can be) with large families of children rising around them. The masters encourage marriages among their slaves, for it is from these lawful connections that they can expect to increase the number of their creoles. A slave cannot marry without the consent of his master, for the vicar will not publish the banns of marriage without this sanction. It is likewise permitted that slaves should marry free persons; if the woman is in bondage, the children remain in the same state; but if the man is a slave, and she is free, their offspring is also free. A slave cannot be married until the requisite prayers have been learnt, the nature of confession be understood, and the sacrament can be received. Upon the estates the master or manager is soon made acquainted with the predilections of the slaves for each other, and these being discovered, marriage is forthwith determined upon, and the irregular proceedings are made lawful. In towns there is more licentiousness among the negroes, as there is among all other classes of men. The passion of love is supposed only to exist in a certain state of civilization, and this may be granted without at the same time declaring that negroes

are incapable of lasting attachment, without supposing that the regard of each sex is mere animal desire, unconnected with predilection. That species of affection which is heightened until personal possession is almost forgotten; doubtless is not felt by human beings, who are in a state of barbarism; but still a negro may be attached; he may fix upon one object in preference to all others. That this is the case, I can vouch; I have known and have heard of many instances in which punishments and other dangers have been braved to visit a chosen one; in which journeys by night have been made after a day of fatigue; in which great constancy has been shown, and a determination that the feelings of the heart shall not be controlled.

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE

Of his Majesty's late Ship Alceste, to the Yellow Sea, &c. &c. to the Island of Lewchew: By John M'Leod, Surgeon of the Alceste.

The island of Lewchew is about fifty miles long and from twelve to fifteen broad; Napa-kiang, our position, (and within five miles of Kint-ching, the capital,) lying in lat. $26^{\circ} 14' N.$, long. $127^{\circ} 52' 1'' E.$ This is its south-west point, the main body of the island extending from hence north a little eastwardly. It is washed on the one side by the Northern Pacific Ocean, and on the other by the Tung Hai, or Eastern Sea.

The rocks about it are all of the coral kind, and immense masses, some assuming very odd shapes,

were seen every where along the sea-shore; and many of the same formation were found on the higher land, at some distance from the beach, whose situation is not easily to be accounted for, unless we suppose them to have been elevated by the force of volcanic fire.

It is the principal island of a group of thirty-six, subject to the same monarch, and the seat of the government. The natives trace their history back to a period long anterior to the Christian era; but their first communication with the rest of the world, when their accounts became fully corroborated and undisputed, was about the year 605, when they were invaded by China, who found them at that time—a time when England and the greater part of Europe were immersed in barbarism—the same kind of people they are at the present day, with the exception of a few Chinese innovations; or, at least, they appear to have altered but in a very slight degree. Indeed, it is very obvious that a revolution in manners, and alteration of habits, are by no means so likely to occur with a people thus living in an obscure and secluded state, as among those who have a wider intercourse with other nations. The only connexion which the Lewchewans have had with their neighbours, and that but very limited, has been with Japan and China, from neither of whom they were likely to receive any example of change.

The clearest, and, perhaps, the only account given of their history is by Su-poa-Koang, a Chinese doctor or philosopher, who was, in 1719, sent as ambassador to

them. The following is the substance of his report as to their origin:—"The Lewchewan tradition states, that, in the beginning, one man and one woman were produced in the great void or chaos. They had the joint name of Omo-mey-kieou. From their union sprung three sons and two daughters; the eldest of the sons had the title of Tien-sun, or Grandson of Heaven, and was the first king of Lewchew; the second was the father of the tributary princes; the rest of the people acknowledge the third as their progenitor. The eldest daughter had the title of Celestial Spirit; the second the Spirit of the Sea. After the death of Tien-sun, twenty-five dynasties reigned successively in this country, occupying (according to their story) a period of 17,802 years previous to the time of Chuntein, who commenced his reign in 1187. This is their fabulous history, of which they are very jealous; but nothing certain was known until 605, before which the inhabitants of Formosa and the adjacent islands were denominated by the Chinese the Oriental Barbarians. In this year the emperor sent to examine them; but, from want of interpreters, no clear account was obtained. They brought back, however, some of the islanders to Sin-gan-foo, the capital of the province of Chen-si, and the seat of the court under the Souy dynasty. Some Japanese, who happened to be there, knew the people, and described them as a race of barbarians. The Emperor Yang-ti sent forthwith some who understood their language to Lewchew, to command their homage, and acknowledg-
ment

ment of him as their sovereign. The prince of Lewchew haughtily replied, that he would own none as his superior. A fleet with ten thousand men was now fitted out from Amoi and the ports of Fo-kien, which force, overcoming the efforts of the islanders, landed at Lewchew; and the king, who had put himself at the head of his people to repel the enemy, being killed, the Chinese burned the capital, and, carrying off five thousand of the natives, as slaves, returned to China. From this, until 1291, the Lewchewans were left unmolested, when Chit-soo, an emperor of the Yuen family, reviving his pretensions, fitted out a fleet against them from the ports of Fo-kien; but, from various causes, it never proceeded farther than the western coast of Formosa, and from thence returned unsuccessful to China. In the year 1372, Hong-ou, emperor of China, and founder of the Ming dynasty, sent a great mandarin to Tsay-tou, who governed in Tchou-chan, the country being at this period divided, in consequence of civil disturbances, into three kingdoms, who, in a private audience, acquitted himself with such address as to persuade the king to declare himself tributary to China, and to request of the emperor the investiture of his estate.

“ Having thus managed by finesse what arms had been unable to effect, the emperor took care to receive, with great distinction, the envoys sent by their master. They brought offerings of fine horses, scented woods, sulphur, copper, and tin, and were sent back again with rich presents for

the king and queen; among which was a gold seal.

“ The two kings of the other districts, Chan-pe and Chan-nan, followed the example of Tchou-chan, and their submission was most graciously received. Thirty-six Chinese families were sent to live in Cheouli, where grants of land were conceded to them; here they taught the Chinese written characters, introduced Chinese books, and the ceremonies in honour of Confucius. The sons of the Lewchewan grandes were also sent to Nankin to study Chinese, and were educated with distinction, at the expense of the emperor.

“ The reigns of Ou-ning and Tse-chao, the son and grandson of Tsay-tou, presented nothing extraordinary; but that of Chang-pa-chi was marked by the reunion of Chan-pe and Chan-nan with Tchou-chan into one kingdom, and the government has since continued in the hands of a single chief. Lewchew is said henceforth to have had considerable intercourse with China and Japan in the way of commerce, much to her advantage, and to have even mediated between those two powers when misunderstandings had occurred.

“ The famous Tay-cosama, however, emperor of Japan, whom the Chinese call ambitious, piratical, irreligious, cruel, and debauched, because he had pillaged their coasts, sent a haughty letter to Chang-ning, commanding him to transfer his homage from China to Japan, which Chang-ning, as firmly refused. Notwithstanding the death of Tay-cosama, the Japanese

panese fitted out a fleet at Satsuma, made a descent on Lewchew, took the king prisoner, and carried him off, having plundered the palace, and killed one of his near relations, who also resisted the acknowledgment of the Japanese. During a captivity of two years, Chang-ning acquired the admiration of the captors by his unyielding firmness and constancy in refusing to swerve from his first allegiance, and they generously sent him back to his states.

“The Tartar dynasty, soon after this, was placed, by conquest, on the throne of China, and made some alteration in the nature of the tribute to be paid, stipulating that envoys, in future, should be sent to Pekin only once in two years. Cang-hi paid much attention to the welfare of Lewchew; and his memory to this day is much respected by the people. It is said to be nearly a thousand years since the bonzes of the sect of Fó introduced their mode of worship into these islands, which has continued to the present time.

“When they make a vow, it is not before the statues or images of their idols; but they burn incense, and, placing themselves in a respectful attitude before certain consecrated stones, which are to be seen in various public situations, they repeat some mysterious words, said to have been dictated by the divine daughters of Omo-mey-kieou. They have also among them a set of holy women, who worship certain spirits deemed powerful among them, and who visit the sick, give medicines, and recite prayers. This seems to have given rise to the accusation of an old missionary at Japan, who said

they practised sorcery and witchcraft. Cang-hi likewise introduced among them the adoration of a new deity, under the name of Tien-fey, or Celestial Queen. Polygamy is allowed here, as in China, but seldom practised. Men and women of the same surname cannot intermarry. The king can only take a wife from one of three great families, who always hold the most distinguished posts: there is also a fourth, of the highest consideration, but with which the princes cannot form an alliance, because it is doubtful whether that family is not itself of the royal line. Their chiefs are generally hereditary, but not always; for men of merit are promoted, and all are liable to be degraded for improper conduct. The king's revenue arises from his own domains; from imposts on salt, sulphur, copper, tin, and several other articles; and from this income he defrays the expenses of the state, and the salaries of the great officers.

“These salaries consist nominally in a certain number of bags of rice; but they are paid generally in silks, and various other necessary articles of clothing and food, in proportions equal to the value of so many bags of that grain. All their interior commerce or marketing is performed by the women and girls at regulated times. They carry their little loads upon their heads with singular dexterity, consisting of the usual necessities of life and wearing apparel, which they exchange for what they more immediately want, or for the copper coin of China and Japan. The men are said to be neat workmen
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in gold, silver, copper, and other metals; and there are manufactories of silk, cotton, flax, and paper. They also build very good vessels, quite large enough to undertake voyages to China and Japan, where their barks are much esteemed. They have adopted the Chinese calendar with respect to the division of the month and year. This island produces rice, wheat, and all sorts of vegetables, in abundance. The people of the coast are expert fishermen, and the sea and rivers are well furnished with fish. They are famous divers, and obtain shells and mother-of-pearl, very much esteemed in China and Japan.

“They possess many woods proper for dying; and one tree in particular yields an oil which is held in great repute. They have likewise a great variety of most delicate fruits, oranges, citrons, lemons, long-y-ven, lee-tchees, grapes, &c. Wolves, tigers, and bears, are unknown; but they have many useful animals, such as horses, water-dogs, black cattle, stags, poultry, geese, peacocks, pigeons, doves, &c.

“The camphor, cedar, and ebony, are among the number of their trees; and they have also wood well fitted for ship-building, and for public edifices. They are represented as disdaining slavery, lying, and cheating. They are fond of games and amusements, and celebrate, with much pomp, the worship of their idols, at the end and commencement of the year; and there exists much union among the branches of families, who give frequent and cheerful entertainments to each other.”

The dress of these people is as

remarkable for its simplicity as it is for its elegance. The hair, which is of a glossy black, (black anointed with an oleaginous substance, obtained from the leaf of a tree,) is turned up from before, from behind, and on both sides, to the crown of the head, and there tied close down; great care being taken that all should be perfectly smooth; and the part of the hair beyond the fastening, or string, being now twisted into a neat little top-knot, is there retained by two fasteners, called *comesashee* and *usisashee*, made either of gold, silver, or brass, according to the circumstances of the wearer; the former of these having a little star on the end of it, which points forward. This mode of hair-dressing is practised with the greatest uniformity, from the highest to the lowest of the males, and has a very pleasing effect, whether viewed singly, or when they are gathered together. At the age of ten years the boys are entitled to the *usisashee*, and at fifteen they wear both. Except those in office, who wear only a cap on duty, they appear to have no covering for the head, at least in fine weather. Interiorly, they wear a kind of shirt, and a pair of drawers, but over all a loose robe, with white sleeves, and a broad sash round their middle. They have sandals on their feet, neatly formed of straw; and the higher orders have also white gaiters, coming above the ankle. The quality of their robes depends on that of the individual.—The superior classes wear silk of various hues, with a sash of contrasting colour, sometimes interwoven with gold.—The lower orders make use of a sort of cotton stuff, generally
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of a chesnut colour, and sometimes striped, or spotted blue and white.

There are nine ranks of grantees, or public officers, distinguished by their caps; of which we observed four.—The highest noticed was worn by a member of the royal family, which was of a pink colour, with bright yellow lozenges.—The next in dignity was the purple; then plain yellow; and the red seemed to be the lowest.

On the female attire we could make but little observation.—The higher ranks are said to wear (and some indeed were seen with) simply a loose flowing robe, without any sash; the hair either hanging loose over the shoulders, or tied up over the left side of the head, the ends falling down again. The lower orders seemed to have petticoats scarcely deeper than a Highlander's kilt, with a short, but loose habit above. One lady, who very frequently promenaded at the nearest village, in front of the ships, appeared to have her robe richly embroidered.

The island of Lewchew itself is situate in the happiest climate of the globe.—Refreshed by the sea-breezes, which, from its geographical position, blow over it at every period of the year, it is free from the extremes of heat and cold, which oppress many other countries; whilst from the general configuration of the land, being more adapted to the production of rivers and streamlets than of bogs or marshes, one great source of disease in the warmer latitudes has no existence: and the people seemed to enjoy robust health; for we observed

no diseased objects, nor beggars of any description, among them.

The verdant lawns and romantic scenery of Tinian and Juan Fernandez, so well described in Anson's Voyage, are here displayed in higher perfection, and on a much more magnificent scale; for cultivation is added to the most enchanting beauties of nature. From a commanding height above the ships, the view is, in all directions, picturesque and delightful. On one hand are seen the distant islands, rising from a wide expanse of ocean, whilst the clearness of the water enables the eye to trace all the coral reefs, which protect the anchorage immediately below. To the south is the city of Napafoo, the vessels at anchor in the harbour, with their streamers flying; and in the intermediate space appear numerous hamlets scattered about on the banks of the rivers, which meander in the valley beneath; the eye being, in every direction, charmed by the varied hues of the luxuriant foliage around their habitations.—Turning to the east, the houses of Kint-ching, the capital city, built in their peculiar style, are observed, opening from among the lofty trees which surround and shade them, rising one above another in gentle ascent to the summit of a hill, which is crowned by the king's palace: the intervening grounds between Napafoo and Kint-ching, a distance of some miles, being ornamented by a continuation of villas and country houses. To the north, as far as the eye can reach, the higher land is covered with extensive forests.

About half a mile from this eminence,

eminence, the traveller is led by a foot-path to what seems only a little wood ; on entering which, under an archway formed by the intermingling branches of the opposite trees, he passes along a serpentine labyrinth, intersected at short distances by others. Not far from each other, on either side of these walks, small wicker doors are observed, on opening any of which, he is surprised by the appearance of a court-yard and house, with the children, and all the usual cottage train, generally gamboling about ; so that, whilst a man fancies himself in some lonely and sequestered retreat, he is, in fact, in the middle of a populous, but invisible village.

Nature has been bountiful in all her gifts to Lewchew : for such is the felicity of its soil and climate, that productions of the vegetable kingdom, very distinct in their nature, and generally found in regions far distant from each other, grow here side by side. It is not merely, as might be expected, the country of the orange and the lime ; but the banyan of India and the Norwegian fir, the tea-plant, and sugar-cane, all flourish together. In addition to many good qualities, not often found combined, this island can also boast its rivers and secure harbours ; and last, though not least, a worthy, a friendly, and a happy race of people.

These islanders are represented as being remarkable for their honesty and adherence to truth, and to this character they appear to be fully entitled. The chiefs informed us that there was little probability of their stealing any thing ; but, as iron implements

were a great temptation, they begged that none might be left carelessly about.—Although, however, the rope machinery and other articles remained, for many nights, unguarded on the beach, and their opportunities on board were numberless, yet not one theft occurred during the whole of our sojourn among them.

That proud and haughty feeling of national superiority, so strongly existing among the common class of British seamen, which induces them to hold all foreigners cheap, and to treat them with contempt, often calling them outlandish lubbers in their own country, was, at this island, completely subdued and tamed by the gentle manners and kind behaviour of the most pacific people upon earth. Although completely intermixed, and often working together, both on shore and on board, not a single quarrel or complaint took place on either side during the whole of our stay ; on the contrary, each succeeding day added to friendship and cordiality.

Notwithstanding it was an infringement of their established rules for strangers to land upon their coasts, yet they granted every possible indulgence, and conceded the point as far as they could ; for their dispositions seemed evidently at war with the unsocial law. When any of the officers wandered into the country beyond the bounds prescribed, they were never rudely repulsed, as in China or Morocco, but mildly entreated to return, as a favour to those in attendance, lest they should incur blame ; and, as this appeal was powerful, it was never disregarded.

They erected little temporary bamboo

bamboo watch-houses or sheds, where those engaged in this duty resided; and, as we wandered about, handed us over from one post to another. In these houses they always pressed the officers to partake of their fare, which was often very good, especially a kind of hung beef which they have the art of curing extremely well.

They appeared to be much accustomed to these pic-nic sort of parties, having a small japanned box, containing sliding drawers for the various viands, which a boy generally carried, on the end of a bamboo, to any part of the fields where they thought proper to dine.

One man, very often accompanied by Geroo, or (as he was sometimes termed, from having a constant smile upon his countenance) the laughing mandarin, seemed to carry about with him a constant supply of these refreshments, and chazzi, a liqueur, which led us to believe that he had been deputed for the express purpose of paying attention to our officers.

The sudden vicissitudes of weather to which we had been exposed, by leaving England during extreme cold, and passing suddenly into the torrid zone; then immediately afterwards into the cold raw climate of the southern Atlantic; meeting with heat again at the Cape of Good Hope; then crossing in rather a high latitude the chilly Southern Ocean; and, quickly following that appearing on the burning coast of Java; might, in fact, be said to have exposed us, in the short period of four months, to the effects of three summers and three winters; and proved as might naturally be supposed, ex-

tremely trying to the health of the men. On our arrival at Lewchew, our cases of sickness, though not numerous, were severe; and to the kindness of the natives may, in a great measure, be attributed their recovery. They were not only comfortably lodged, but the higher class of people daily attended, inquiring into their wants, giving additional coogas or eggs, and other delicacies, to those whose cases more particularly required them, and paying a cheering attention to the whole; for theirs was a substantial, not a cold or ostentatious charity.

Captain Maxwell, in riding one morning to inspect the progress of the artificers, by the stumbling of his horse, which fell among the rocks, not only fractured the bone, but badly dislocated the joint of his fore-finger. Some of his Lewchewan friends, who were near him, ran to the next village for one of their surgical professors. He soon arrived, and, after much salutation, proceeded to examine the injury, (the dislocation had in the interim been reduced by the coxswain pulling upon it,) and stated that he would come on board the ship, whither the captain was then proceeding, in an hour, with the applications he thought necessary for it. At the time appointed, one of the chiefs, with this surgeon, and another more in the character of a physician, and their retinue, some of them bearing a medicine-chest, made their appearance alongside. The injury being again examined, (and it having been previously decided that they were to have the management of the cure, under surveillance, in order to

to observe how they would act,) a fowl was killed with much form, and skinned, and a composition of flour and eggs, with some warm ingredients about the consistence of dough, was put round the fractured part, (which had the effect of retaining it in its position,) and the whole enclosed in the skin of the fowl. As this fowl appeared to have been sacrificed, its skin being applied to enclose the whole was most probably meant to act as a charm.

The manual part finished, the physician proceeded to examine the general state of health, and the pulse appeared to be his chief, and indeed only guide, in this respect. The arm was laid bare to the shoulder, and he applied his fingers with great attention, and with as much solemnity as ever issued from Warwick-lane, to the course of the artery, and at all parts of the arm where he could feel it beat, to ascertain whether it was every where alike; and, lest there should be any mistake in this point, the other arm underwent the same investigation; the whole party looking all the while extremely grave. Having now decided as to the medicines necessary on this occasion, his little chest was brought forward, with his pharmacopœia, and a sort of clinical guide, directing the quantity and quality of the dose.

His chest was extremely neat, its exterior japanned black, and a number of partitions in it, again subdivided, so as to contain about a hundred and eighty different articles (quite enough in all conscience, even among the greatest hypochondriacs and drug-swallowers); but they were fortu-

nately all simples, being a collection of wood-shavings, roots, seeds, and dried flowers of his own country. There appeared also some ginseng, a product of Tartary and Corea, much in vogue in these parts. Small portions of the specified articles were measured out with a silver spatula, and put up in little parcels, and directions were now issued as to the mode of boiling and drinking the decoction. Next day they were highly delighted to hear the good effect of their medicines, though they had never been taken (as many a poor doctor is cheated by cunning patients); and a new application was brought for the finger, termed a fish poultice, so composed as to look, and indeed to smell, something like currant-jelly.

Having carried on this scheme for a few days, they were then informed that the finger was so much better as to render their attendance unnecessary any longer; and, as a reward for their services, they were presented with some little articles, and among others, as an addition to the chest, some spirits of hartshorn, displaying to them its effect on the olfactory organs, with which they were quite astonished and pleased; some spirits of lavender and oil of mint, they also considered a great acquisition. The physician, more especially, seemed to be a very respectable man, and was treated as such by those about him. Their practice seems to be a good deal derived from the Chinese, for their notion of the circulation of the blood, or rather their having no correct notion about it, is the same. Neither have they any idea of

of anatomy from actual observation, and, of course, the greater operations cannot be undertaken; one man only was examined by Mr. Rankin, who had lost his arm, and his stump was rather a rude one. Some corn was left with them, which they promised to cultivate; and fortunately Captain Hall had some English potatoes, which were likely to be productive, and the mode of planting them was particularly described. Their own, or sweet potatoes (*convolvulus batatus*) with which they supplied us, contain a great quantity of saccharine matter, and are extremely nutritious. Their fields were extremely neat, and their furrows arranged with much regularity by a plough of a simple construction drawn by bulls, assisted occasionally by the use of a hoe; and they practised irrigation in the culture of their rice. A young bull of English breed (though calved on the island) was presented to the chief authorities by Captain Maxwell, leaving them also a cow (having two on board), so that it is possible the next visitors who touch at Lewchew may find a larger, though they cannot find a better race of cattle.

The mode of dancing of these people may, strictly speaking, be termed hopping; for they jump about upon one leg only, keeping the other up, and changing occasionally, making a number of extravagant motions, and clapping with their hands, and singing at the same time their dancing song. According to our notions, this was their only ungraceful action. A number of them thus engaged, more especially when joined by the officers, (who must needs acquire their style,) formed rather a

grotesque assembly. They attempted our mode of country-dancing, and managed (considering it was necessary to make use of both feet) tolerably well.

The Lewchewans are a very small race of people, the average height of the men not exceeding five feet two inches at the utmost. Almost the whole animal creation here is of diminutive size, but all excellent in their kind. Their bullocks seldom weighed more than 350lbs., but they were plump and well-conditioned, and the beef very fine; their goats and pigs were reduced in the same proportion, their poultry seeming to form the only exception. However small the men might be, they were sturdy, well-built, and athletic. The ladies we had no opportunity of measuring, but they appeared to be of corresponding stature.

These islanders, most probably, originated from Japan or Corea, having a good deal of the Corean lineaments, but rather milder, and softened down. They are obviously not of Chinese origin, having nothing whatever of that drowsy and elongated eye which peculiarly distinguishes the latter; nor would it seem that the few Chinese and their descendants settled on the island freely mixed with the native Lewchewans, the national features and the natural disposition of the two people being perfectly distinct, and differing in every respect. Neither have they any mixture of Indian blood, being quite as fair as the southern Europeans; even those who are most exposed being scarcely so swarthy as the same class of society in Spain or Portugal.

The Chinese language is learnt
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by a few, as the French is in our own country; but the Bonzes, or priests, who are also school-masters, teach the boys their native language, which is a dialect of the Japanese, and is rather soft and harmonious; and they have nothing of that hesitation in utterance, or appearance of choking, which is observed in the former, often requiring the action of the hands to assist the tongue. The orders and records of government are in their own, or Japanese character; but they have books in the Chinese language.

They burn the bodies of their dead, and deposit their bones in urns, (at least in our neighbourhood,) in natural vaults, or caverns of the rocks along the sea-shore. The graves of the few Chinese residents here are formed in their own style.

Crimes are said to be very unfrequent among them; and they seem to go perfectly unarmed, for we observed no warlike instruments of any description; and our guns, shot, and musquetry, appeared to be objects of great wonder to them. It must have been the policy of the Chinese to disarm them, for it appears that, in the first instance, they defended themselves nobly against their attacks, as well as those of the Japanese. Not even a bow or arrow was to be seen; and, when they observed the effect of fowling-pieces in the hands of some of the gentlemen, they begged they might not kill the birds, which they were always glad to see flying about their houses; and if we required them to eat, they would send in their stead an additional quantity of fowls on board every day. An

order was immediately issued by the commanding officer to desist from this sort of sporting.

The people of Tatao and the north-east islands are reported to have been in possession of books previous to the Chinese attack on Grand Lewchew, and to have been even more polished than in the principal island. Tatao and Kiki-ai are said to produce a sort of cedar, termed *kienmou* by the Chinese, and *iseki* by the inhabitants, which is considered incorruptible, and brings a great price, the columns of the palaces of the grandees being generally formed of it.

A remarkable production is found on this island, about the size of a cherry-tree, bearing flowers, which, alternately on the same day, assume the tint of the rose or the lily, as they are exposed to the sun-shine or the shade. The bark of this tree is of a deep green, and the flowers bear a resemblance to our common roses. Some of our party, whose powers of vision were strong (assisted by vigorous imaginations) fancied, that by attentive watching, the change of hue from white to red, under the influence of the solar ray, was actually perceptible to the eye; that they altered their colour, however, in the course of a few hours was very obvious.

The vessels of these islands, in the general appearance of their hulls and plan of rigging and sails, are precisely the same as we had observed throughout the whole of our track from the Gulf of Pe-tche-lee to Napa-kiang. They had, in common use, canoes hollowed from the trunk of a tree, much the same in shape as those
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of other parts of the world where they are employed, and of sufficient size to contain easily from six to eight or ten people. For purposes of heavier burden, they had boats strongly built, and rather flat-bottomed.

In these boats they brought our water, bullocks, and other stock, on board. The water was not sent in barrels, but in open tubs, and baled from these into our casks.

A few days previous to our leaving the island, intimation was sent that a man of the first distinction (said to be one of the princes, and nearest heir to the crown) intended paying a visit to the ship. He was carried down to the mouth of the little river, opposite to the anchorage, in a close chair, or palanquin, amidst an immense concourse of people, who had flocked from all parts to this spot. He embarked in great state, in their own boats, with their flags flying; and was saluted, on his approach to the ships, by seven guns from each, and received on board the *Alceste* with every possible mark of respect and attention; the rigging being manned, and the officers in full dress. He was above the usual size of the Lewchewans, and had rather more of the European cast of countenance. His robe was of a dark pink-coloured silk; the cap rather lighter, with bright yellow lozenges on it. In his mien and deportment there was much dignified simplicity; for, although his carriage was that of a man of high rank, it was totally unmixed with the least appearance of hauteur; and his demeanour was, altogether, extremely engaging.

As he passed along the decks, his own people saluted him by kneeling; clasping the hands before their breasts and bowing the head. He examined minutely every thing about the ship, and seemed equally pleased and surprised with all he saw. After joining in a sumptuous collation in the cabin, he took his leave with the same honours as when he came on board, having previously invited the captain and officers to an entertainment on shore. The day appointed for this feast happening to be the 25th of October, the anniversary of our venerable sovereign's accession to the throne, a royal salute was fired, at sun-rise, by both ships; at noon the standard was hoisted, the ships dressed in colours, and another salute fired; after which the boats with their flags flying, containing the captains and every officer that could possibly be spared, proceeded into Napa-kiang.

They were received precisely as on the former occasion, except that the number of *grandees* was greater, and there appeared a higher degree of state. The prince received the party at the gate, and conducted them into the hall. Three tables were laid close to each other; the first for the great man and the captains, the second for the superior officers, and the third for the young gentlemen. This prince, or chief, did the honours of his own table, occasionally directing his attention to the others; but a man of some rank was added to each of them for the purpose of seeing the strangers properly treated, as well as to pass and proclaim the toasts; and for this purpose they were allowed to be seated, all the rest standing round

round the room, but, at the same time, joining heartily in the general mirth and glee. The healths of our king and Royal Family were toasted with much respect, and the anniversary of his majesty's accession was a day of real jubilee at Napafoo. The sovereign of Lewchew, the queen and princes, were proposed by our party; whilst our hosts (never deficient in politeness) toasted the wives and children of their friends the Engelees. In dining on board the ship, Captain Maxwell had given confectionary to those who were married, in parcels, proportioned to the number of children they had; and on this occasion they returned the compliment; in the distribution of which the grey-beards were highly amused on observing some of the young midshipmen acquiring at once wives and large families.

Some personal presents from the captains were on this day offered to the chiefs, consisting of various articles as before, adding some damask table cloths, and elegantly cut decanters and glasses, which they seemed greatly to admire. Specimens of their manufactures in cloth were sent on board the ships in return.

At their departure, the prince attended the party nearly to the landing-place; and, when about to take his leave, two small additional presents (at the suggestion of Captain Hall) were given to him, as memorials. One was a very neat pocket thermometer (the use of the larger ones having been explained to him on board,) and the other a cornelian seal set in gold, with a ribband attached to each; they were hung round his

neck; and the ceremony, being in public, had the appearance of investing him with an order, with which he seemed to be highly gratified. As the boats shoved off from the landing-place, the crews, whom they had handsomely entertained, gave them three cheers, which they returned in their own style of salutation; and in this manner followed the boats along the pier, to the mouth of the river. They had sent on board the ship a great number of coloured paper lanterns, for the purpose of illuminating her at night, in honour of our king. This was done after dark, the lanterns being regularly ranged along the yards and rigging, the main-deck ports illuminated, sky-rockets thrown up, and blue lights burnt at the yard-arms, bowsprit, and spanker-boom ends, with a *feu-de-joie* of musquetry, thrice repeated round the ship. The whole had a very brilliant effect from the shore, where thousands of the natives had collected to view this display.

The occurrences of this day, so novel and remarkable, will often be recalled with delight by all who witnessed the pleasing scene of two people differing widely in national manners, language, and dress; distinct, in fact, in every thing that is exterior, yet so harmoniously united in hearty goodwill and convivial friendship.

The period of our departure being now fixed, all the stores were embarked on the evening of the 26th October. The next morning, as the ships unmoored, the Lewchewans, as a mark of respect, arrayed themselves in their best apparel, and, proceeding to the temple,

temple, offered up to their gods a solemn sacrifice, invoking them to protect the Engelees, to avert every danger, and restore them in safety to their native land! In the manner of this adieu there was an air of sublimity and benevolence combined, by far more touching to the heart than the most refined compliment of a more civilized people. It was the genuine benignity of artless nature, and of primitive innocence. Immediately following this solemnity, our particular friends crowded on board to shake hands, and say "Farewell!" whilst the tears which many of them shed, evinced the sincerity of their attachment.

NARRATIVE OF THE SHIPWRECK.

A course was now shaped to avoid the numerous rocks and shoals, not well defined, which lie in that part of the Chinese sea more immediately to the westward of the Philippines, and to the north-westward of Borneo; and having by the 14th passed the whole, and got into the usual track for the passage of either the Straits of Banca or Gaspar, it was resolved to proceed through the latter, as being more direct and less subject to calms than the former, and considering them equally safe, from the latest surveys and directions being on board, some of them by those who had personally examined them. At day-light in the morning of the 18th we made Gaspar Island, exactly at the time expected, and, passing it, stood on for the straits. As is customary in approaching any coast or passage whatever, but more especially one that all are not familiarly ac-

quainted with, the utmost precaution was taken by keeping the leads going in both chains, men looking out at the mast-heads, yard-arms, and bowsprit end; the captain, master, and officer of the watch, on whom the charge of the ship at such a time more particularly devolves, having been vigilantly on deck during the whole of the previous night and this morning. Steering under all these guarded circumstances, the soundings exactly corresponding with the charts, and following the express line prescribed by all concurring directions to clear every danger (and the last danger of this sort between us and England), the ship about half-past seven in the morning struck with a horrid crash, on a reef of sunken rocks, and remained immoveable!

It was very soon indeed but too evident that any attempt to move her would be attended with the most fatal consequences; for, on each side of the rocks on which she hung, the water deepened from ten to seventeen fathoms immediately around her; and, from the injury received, she must have gone down in a few minutes, had she forced her way over this narrow reef. The best bower anchor was therefore let go, to keep her fast; and the pumps were soon abandoned, being clearly of no avail.

The boats were hoisted out, and Lieutenant Hoppner, with the barge and cutter, ordered to proceed with the ambassador and suite; and all those not essentially required, to the nearest part of the island, which seemed about three miles and a half distant. Meanwhile every exertion was used by the

the captain and officers, who remained by the ship, to secure what provisions and stores could be obtained; a task of considerable labour and difficulty, for all was under water, which now rose above the orlop-deck.

When she struck, the tide must have been rising, for towards the afternoon it fell outside, and consequently inside the ship several feet; thereby enabling us to save ourselves from absolute starvation by laying hold of some articles of provender which floated up, assisted by divers, and which the boats were employed in conveying to the shore. A raft was also constructed, on which were placed the heavier stores, with some baggage, and towed towards the island. By the return of those boats which carried his Excellency on shore we learnt the very great difficulty of effecting a landing, the mangrove trees growing out to a considerable distance in the water; and it was not until after ranging alongshore for nearly three miles from the place they at first attempted, that a small opening appeared, through which, by scrambling from rock to rock, they at last obtained a footing on *terra firma*. Here, by cutting away a quantity of the smaller jungle at the foot of a hill (for the island was completely overgrown with wood), a space was cleared away, where, under the shade of the loftier trees, they bivouacued for that day and night.

On board the ship the work went on with activity, endeavouring to save whatever might be most useful on such an occasion; but, as the tide rose, the swell of

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the sea lifting her from the rocks, she dashed on them again with such violence, as to render it necessary about midnight to cut away the topmasts. At day-light, on Wednesday the 19th, Mr. McLeod landed with two men who had been severely wounded by the fall of the masts, and with a report from the captain to Lord Amherst. The spot in which our party were situated was sufficiently romantic, but seemed at the same time the abode of ruin and of havoc. Few of its inhabitants (and among the rest the ambassador) had more than a shirt or pair of trowsers on. The wreck of books, or, as it was not unaptly termed, "a literary manure," was spread about in all directions; whilst parliamentary robes, court-dresses, and mandarin habits, intermixed with check shirts and tarry jackets, were hung around in wild confusion on every tree.

On his lordship being informed that no fresh water had as yet been obtained from the ship, and that it was barely probable some might be got by scuttling the lower deck, he desired every body might be called around him, and ordered that a gill of that which had been sent on shore the day before (what happened to be on deck in the dripstones and water-jugs), with half that quantity of rum, should be equally served out to every man without distinction, and, taking his own share with perfect good humour, afforded to others an example of calm fortitude; and a cheerful readiness to share in every privation, which never fails on such occasions to have a powerful and beneficial effect, more especially

especially when that example is found, where it ought to be, in the first rank.

Parties were now returning; who had been searching for water in vain, every attempt to dig for it having proved fruitless; or, being too near the sea, salt water alone had oozed into the pits. At one spot they found the skeleton of a man, and the horrid idea of his having died from thirst rushed on every mind. Those who went into the wood, on these excursions, were obliged to notch the trees, and leave marks as they advanced, in order to find their way back. In the forenoon Captain Maxwell came on shore, to confer with Lord Amherst on the best mode to be adopted in the perilous situation in which they were then placed. The boats were utterly incapable of conveying half our number any where; and, as some must necessarily go to the nearest friendly port for assistance, Captain Maxwell judged it best that his excellency and suite should proceed with a proper guard for Batavia, or whatever part of Java they could fetch, from whence vessels could be despatched to bring off those who remained behind.

This being what is termed the north-west monsoon, there was every likelihood of the boats reaching Java (the current being also in their favour) in three days; and by this arrangement, which very happily was settled without loss of time, two grand purposes were answered, the nearest to the captain's heart and his first duty; viz. the immediate conveyance of the ambassador and suite to a place

of safety; and, by their safety, ensuring more effectually than by any other means that of the officers and men who remained with himself upon this desert isle. It was thought probable that row-boats might be despatched from Batavia after the arrival of his excellency, so as to reach the island (even against wind and current) in twelve or fifteen days; and, as Mr. Ellis volunteered to return with the first boat or vessel that shoved off to our assistance, an additional assurance was thus given, that, combined with the influence of the ambassador with the Dutch government, no delay would occur in forwarding relief. After a short, and very slender *fête champêtre* in this wilderness (in which salt was viewed with the same horror as arsenic), his lordship, about five in the evening, accompanied by the gentlemen of his suite, by Lieutenant Hoppner, in command of the boats, Mr. Mayne to navigate, Lieutenant Cooke, R. M. (with a party, as officer of the guard, in the event of falling in with any of the Malay pirates who infest these seas), Mr. Blair, midshipman, and Mr. Somerset (who had come to see the world a little), waded out to the edge of the reef, and embarked in the barge and cutter. They were in all forty-seven persons, and had with them a small stock of provisions, consisting of a side of mutton, a ham, a tongue, about twenty pounds of coarse biscuit, and some few more of fine; seven gallons of water, the same of beer, as many of spruce, and about thirty bottles of wine. This was all that could be spared; and, being

being deemed equal to sustain nature for four or five days, in which period they must either make the land, or be so disposed of as to require no provisions, it was considered sufficient by the party themselves, and they looked for no more. After pulling outwards a little way to clear all the rocks, they made sail to the southward, attended by the best wishes of every man on the island, and were soon out of sight. The number left behind was two hundred men and boys, and one woman.

The first measure of Captain Maxwell, after fixing a party to dig a well in a spot which was judged, from a combination of circumstances, the most likely to find water, was to remove our bivouac to the top of the hill, where we could breathe a cooler and purer air; a place in all respects not only better adapted to the preservation of our health, but to our defence in case of attack. A path was cut upwards, and a party employed in clearing away and setting fire to the underwood on the summit. This last operation tended much to free us from myriads of ants, and of snakes, scorpions, centipedes, and other reptiles, which in such a place and climate generally abound. Others were employed in removing upwards our small stock of provisions, which were deposited (under a strict guard), in a sort of natural magazine, formed by the tumbling together of some huge masses of rock on the highest part of this eminence. On board the wreck a party was stationed, endeavouring to gain any accession they could to our stock of provisions

and arms, and to save any public stores that could be found. There was a communication for this purpose between the shore and the ship whenever the tide permitted. For the last two days every one had experienced much misery from thirst: a small cask of water (the only one which could be obtained from the ship) was scarcely equal to a pint each in the course of that period; and perhaps no question was ever so anxiously repeated, as "What hope from the well?" About eleven at night the diggers had got, by rather a tortuous direction (on account of large stones), as far down as twenty feet, when they came to a clayey or marly soil, that above it being a red earth, which seemed rather moist, and had nothing saline in the taste. At a little past midnight a bottle of muddy water was brought the captain as a specimen, and, the moment it was understood to be fresh, the rush to the well was such as to impede the workmen; therefore it became necessary to plant sentries to enable them to complete their task, and permit the water to settle a little. Fortunately about this time a heavy shower of rain fell, and, by spreading sheets, tablecloths, &c. and wringing them, some relief was afforded. There are few situations in which men exposed without shelter to a torrent of rain would, as in the present instance, hail that circumstance as a blessing: bathing in the sea was also resorted to by many in order to drink by absorption, and they fancied it afforded relief.

Thursday, 20th. This morning
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the captain, ordering all hands together, stated to them in few words, that every man, by the regulations of the navy, was as liable to answer for his conduct on the present as on any other occasion ; that, as long as he lived, the same discipline should be exerted, and, if necessary, with greater rigour than aboard ; a discipline for the general welfare, which he trusted every sensible man of the party must see the necessity of maintaining ;—assuring them, at the same time, he would have much pleasure in recommending those who distinguished themselves by the regularity and propriety of their conduct ;—that the provisions we had been able to save should be served out, although necessarily with a very sparing hand, yet with the most rigid equality to all ranks, until we obtained that relief which he trusted would soon follow the arrival of Lord Amherst at Java.

During this day the well afforded a pint of water for each man ; it had a sweetish milk-and-water taste, something like the juice of the cocoa-nut, but nobody found fault with it ; on the contrary, it diffused that sort of happiness which only they can feel who have felt the horrible sensation of thirst under a vertical sun, subject at the same time to a harassing and fatiguing duty. This day was employed in getting up every thing from the foot of the hill ; boats passing to the ship, but unfortunately almost every thing of real value to us in our present case was under water. We were in hopes, however, that, as no bad weather was likely to happen, we

might be enabled by scuttling at low water, or by burning her upper-works, to acquire many useful articles.

On Friday, 21st, the party stationed at the ship found themselves, soon after day-light, surrounded by a number of Malay proas, apparently well armed, and full of men. Without a single sword or musquet for defence, they had just time to throw themselves into the boat alongside, and push for the shore, chased by the pirates, who, finding two of our other boats push out to their assistance, returned to the ship, and took possession of her. Soon afterwards it was reported, from the look-out rock, that the savages, armed with spears, were landing at a point about two miles off. Under all the depressing circumstances attending shipwreck—of hunger, thirst, and fatigue ; and menaced by a ruthless foe ; it was glorious to see the British spirit staunch and unsubdued. The order was given for every man to arm himself in the best way he could, and it was obeyed with the utmost promptitude and alacrity. Rude pike-staves were formed, by cutting down young trees ; small swords, dirks, knives, chisels, and even large spike-nails sharpened, were firmly affixed to the ends of these poles ; and those who could find nothing better hardened the end of the wood in the fire, and, bringing it to a sharp point, formed a tolerable weapon. There were, perhaps, a dozen cutlasses ; the marines had about thirty muskets and bayonets, but could muster no more than seventy-five ball-cartridges among the whole party.

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We had fortunately preserved some loose powder drawn from the upper-deck guns after the ship had struck, (for the magazine was under water in five minutes) and the marines, by hammering their buttons round, and by rolling up pieces of broken bottles in cartridges, did their best to supply themselves with a sort of langrage which would have some effect at close quarters, and strict orders were given not to throw away a single shot until sure of their aim. Mr. Cheffy, the carpenter, and his crew, under the direction of the captain, were busied in forming a sort of abattis, by felling trees, and enclosing in a circular shape the ground we occupied ; and, by interweaving loose branches with the stakes driven in among these, a breast-work was constructed, which afforded us some cover, and must naturally impede the progress of any enemy unsupplied with artillery. That part of the island we had landed on was a narrow ridge, not above musket-shot across, bounded on one side by the sea, and on the other by a creek, extending upwards of a mile inland, and nearly communicating with the sea at its head. Our hill was the outer point of this tongue, and its shape might be very well represented by an inverted punch-bowl: the circle on which the bowl stands would then shew the fortification ; and the space within it our citadel.

It appeared by the report of scouts, a short time after the first account, that the Malays had not actually landed, but had taken possession of some rocks near this point, on which they deposited a quantity of plunder brought from

the ship ; and during the day they continued making these predatory trips.

In the evening all hands were mustered under arms, and a motley group they presented ; it was gratifying, however, to observe, that, rude as were their implements of defence, there seemed to be no want of spirit to use them if occasion offered. The officers and men were now marshalled regularly into the different divisions and companies, their various posts assigned, and other arrangements made. An officer and party were ordered to take charge of the boats for the night, and they were hauled closer into the landing-place. An alarm which occurred during the night shewed the benefit of these regulations, for, on a sentry challenging a noise among the bushes, every one was at his post in an instant, and without the least confusion.

On Saturday morning 22d, some of the Malay boats approached the place where ours were moored ; and, with the view of ascertaining whether they had any inclination to communicate on friendly terms, the gig with an officer and four hands, pulled gently towards them, waving the bough of a tree (a general symbol of peace everywhere), shewing the usual demonstrations of friendship, and of a desire to speak to them ; but all was vain, for they were merely reconnoitring our position, and immediately pulled back to their rock.

The second lieutenant (Mr. Hay) was now ordered with the barge, cutter, and gig, armed in the best way we could, to proceed to the ship, and regain possession of her, either

either by fair means or by force; the pirates not appearing, at this time, to have more than eighty men. Those on the rocks, seeing our boats approach, threw all their plunder into their vessels, and made off.

Two of their largest proas were now at work on the ship; but, on observing their comrades abandon the rock, and the advance of the boats, they also made sail away, having previously set fire to the ship, which they did so effectually; that in a few minutes the flames burst from every port, and she was soon enveloped in a cloud of smoke. The boats were unable to board her, and therefore returned.

Here was a period to every hope of accommodation with these people, if, indeed, any reasonable hope could ever have been entertained on that head. The Malays, more especially those wandering and piratical tribes, who roam about the coasts of Borneo, Billiton, and the wilder parts of Sumatra, are a race of savages, perhaps the most merciless and inhuman to be found in any part of the world. The Battas are literally cannibals. In setting fire to the ship, they gave a decided proof of their disposition to us; but, although certainly with no good intention, they did merely what we intended to do; for, by burning her upper works and decks, every thing buoyant could float up from below, and be more easily laid hold of.

The ship continued burning during the whole of the night; and the flames, which could be seen through the openings of the trees, shed a melancholy glare

around, and excited the most mournful ideas. This night also all hands were suddenly under arms again, from a marine firing his musket at what he very properly considered a suspicious character near his post, who appeared advancing upon him, and refused to answer after being repeatedly hailed. It turned out afterwards that the branch of a tree, half-cut through the day before, had given way, under one of a race of large baboons, which we found about this time disputed the possession of the island with us. At the well, where there generally was kept a good fire at night, on account of the mosquitoes, the sentries had more than once been alarmed by these gentlemen shewing their black faces from behind the trees. They became so extremely troublesome to some ducks we had saved from the wreck, (seizing and carrying them up the trees, and letting them fall down again when alarmed,) that on several occasions they left their little yard, and came up among the people, when the monkeys got among them, thus instinctively preferring the society of man for protection.

On Sunday morning, (23d,) the boats were sent to the still-smoking wreck, and some flour, a few cases of wine, and a cask of beer, had floated up. This last Godsend was announced just at the conclusion of divine service, which was this morning held in the mess-tent, and a pint was ordered to be immediately served out to each man, which called forth three cheers. This seems to be the only style in which a British seaman can give vent to the warmer feelings of his heart. It is his mode
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of thanksgiving for benefits received; and it equally serves him to honour his friend, to defy his enemy, or to proclaim victory. This day we continued improving our fence, and clearing away a glacis immediately around it, that we might see and have fair play with these barbarians, should they approach. They had retired behind a little islet, (called Pulo Challa, or Misfortune's Isle,) about two miles from us, and seemed waiting there for reinforcements; for some of their party had made sail towards Billiton.

Monday morning, (24th,) the boats, as yesterday, went to the wreck, and returned with some casks of flour, only partially damaged; a few cases of wine, and about forty boarding-pikes, with eighteen muskets, were also laid hold of. With the loose powder secured out of the great guns in the first instance, Mr. Holman, the gunner, had been actively employed, forming musket-cartridges; and by melting down some pewter basins and jugs, with a small quantity of lead, lately obtained from the wreck, balls were cast in clay moulds, increasing not a little our confidence and security. A quart of water each had been our daily allowance from the well hitherto, and on this day a second was completed near the foot of the hill, in another direction, which not only supplied clearer water, but in greater plenty; and we could now, without restriction, indulge in the luxury of a long drink, not caring even to excite thirst, in order to enjoy that luxury in higher perfection.

On Tuesday, (25th,) the boats made their usual trip; some more

cases of wine, and a few boarding-pikes were obtained, both excellent articles in their way, in the hands of men who are inclined to entertain either "their friends or their foes." On shore we were employed completing the paths to the wells, and felling trees which intercepted our view of the sea.

Wednesday, (26th,) at day-light, two of the pirate proas, with each a canoe astern, were discovered close in with the cove where our boats were moored. Lieutenant Hay, (a straight-forward sort of fellow,) who had the guard that night at the boats, and of course slept in them, immediately dashed at them with the barge, cutter, and gig. On perceiving this they cut adrift their canoes, and made all sail chased by our boats; they rather distanced the cutter and gig, but the barge gained upon them. On closing, the Malays evinced every sign of defiance, placing themselves in the most threatening attitudes, and firing their swivels at the barge. This was returned by Mr. Hay with the only musket he had in the boat, and, as they closed nearer, the Malays commenced throwing their javelins and darts, several falling into the barge, but without wounding any of the men. Soon after they were grappled by our fellows, when three of them having been shot, and a fourth knocked down with the butt end of the musket, five more jumped overboard and drowned themselves, (evidently disdaining quarter,) and two were taken prisoners, one of whom was severely wounded. This close style of fighting is termed by seamen man-handling an enemy.

The Malays had taken some
measure

measure to sink their proa, for she went down almost immediately. Nothing could exceed the desperate ferocity of these people. One who had been shot through the body, but who was not quite dead, on being removed into the barge, with a view of saving him, (as his own vessel was sinking,) furiously grasped a cutlass which came within his reach, and it was not without a struggle wrenched from his hand : he died in a few minutes. The consort of this proa, firing a parting shot, bore up round the north end of the island, and escaped. Their canoes (which we found very useful to us) were also brought on shore, containing several articles of plunder from the ship. They appeared to be the two identical proas which set fire to her. The prisoners (the one rather elderly, the other young) when brought on shore, seemed to have no hope of being permitted to live, and sullenly awaited their fate; but, on the wounds of the younger being dressed, the hands of the other untied, and food offered to them, with other marks of kindness, they became more cheerful, and appeared especially gratified at seeing one of their dead companions, who had been brought on shore, decently buried.

The Malays are a people of very unprepossessing aspect; their bodies of a deep bronze colour; their black teeth and reddened lips, (from chewing the betel-nut and siri,) their gaping nostrils, and lank clotted hair hanging about their shoulders and over their scowling countenances, give them altogether a fiend-like and murderous look. They are like-

wise an unjoyous race, and seldom smile.

The state of one of the wounds received by the Malay (his knee-joint being penetrated, and the bones much injured) would have justified, more particularly in this kind of field practice, amputation; but, on consideration that it would be impossible to convince him of this being done with the intention of benefitting him, and might have the appearance of torture, which it was not improbable might suggest the idea of amputation and other operations to them, in the event of any, or all of us, falling into their hands, it was determined, therefore, to try the effect of a good constitution, and careful attention. A little wigwam was built, and a blanket and other comforts given to him, his comrade being appointed his cook and attendant. They refused at first the provisions we offered them; but, on giving them some rice to prepare in their own way, they seemed satisfied. Never expecting quarter, when over-powered in their piratical attempts, and having been generally tortured when taken alive, may account for the others drowning themselves.

In the forenoon, immediately after this rencontre, fourteen proas and smaller boats appeared standing across from the Banca side, and soon after they anchored behind Pulo Chalacca. Several of their people landed, and carrying up some bundles on their shoulders, left them in the wood, and returned for more. We had some hope, from the direction in which they first appeared, as well as their anchoring at that spot (the rendezvous agreed upon at the departure

parture of Lord Amherst,) that they might have been from Batavia to our relief.

The small flag (belonging to the embassy) was brought down and displayed on the look-out rock; the strangers, each, immediately hoisted some flag at their mast-heads. Anxious to know still more about them, Mr. Sykes was allowed to advance with the union-jack, accompanied by some more of the young gentlemen, along the strand, to a considerable distance; and soon after some of their party, with a flag, set off to meet them. As they mutually approached, the Malays dropped a little in the rear of their flag-bearer, and laid down their arms; ours also fell astern, and the two ancients (or colour men), wading into a creek which separated them, cautiously met each other. The Malay salamed a good deal: many fine Yorkshire bows were made on the other side: shaking hands was the next ceremony, and then, joining flags, they walked up arm and arm to the place where the captain and several others were stationed. Satisfied now they must be friends sent to our assistance, they were welcomed with cheers, and every countenance was gladdened. But our joy was of short duration; for, although their flag was laid submissively at the captain's feet, and all were sufficiently civil in their deportment, yet they turned out to be mere wanderers, employed gathering a sort of seaweed, found on the coast of these (but in still greater abundance among the Pelew) islands, said by some to be an article of commerce with the Chinese epicures, who use it like the bird-nests in their

soups. All this was made out chiefly by signs, added to a few Malay words which some understood.

Mr. Hay, with his division armed, proceeded down to their anchorage, himself and some other officers, going on board with their Rajah, (as they styled him) who expressed a great desire to see the captain on board, and sent him a present of a piece of fish, and some cocoa-nut milk. During the night many schemes were proposed as to the best mode of negotiating with these people. Some thought that, by the hope of reward, they might be induced to carry part of us to Java, and our four remaining boats would then be equal to the conveyance of the rest. Others, adverting to the treacherous character of the Malays, and the great temptation to murder us when in their power, from that sort of property still in our possession, and to them of great value, considered it safest to seize upon and disarm them, carrying ourselves to Batavia, and then most amply to remunerate them for any inconvenience they might have sustained from being pressed into the service.

The morning of Thursday, the 27th, however, perfectly relieved us from any further discussion on this subject, the Rajah and his suite having proceeded to plunder the wreck, which by this time they had espied. It is probable they were not certain of our real situation on the first evening, but might have supposed, from seeing the uniforms, colours, and other military appearance, that some settlement, as at Minto, (in the island of Banca) had been established

blished there; and this may also account for their civility in the first instance; for, from the moment their harpy-like spirit was excited by the wreck, and they saw our real condition, there were no more offerings of fish, or of cocoa-nut milk.

To have sent the boats openly to attack them was judged impolitic; it would only have driven them off for a moment, and put them on their guard against surprise by night, should it be thought necessary, in a day or two, to do so. They could deprive us of little; for the copper bolts and iron work, which they were now most interested about, were not to us of material importance.

We had the day before moved the boats into another cove, more out of sight (from the overspreading branches of the trees,) and safer in case of attack, being commanded by two strong little ports (one having a rude draw-bridge,) erected on the rocks immediately above it, and wattled in, where an officer and piquet were nightly placed; and a new serpentine path was cut down to this inlet, communicating with our main position aloft.

On Friday, the 28th, the Malays were still employed on the wreck. A boat approached us in the forenoon; but on the gig going out to meet it, they refused to correspond, and returned to their party. No relief having appeared from Batavia, and the period being elapsed at which (as was now thought) we had reason to expect it, measures were taken, by repairing the launch and constructing a firm raft, to give us additional powers of transporting our-

selves from our present abode, before our stock of provisions was entirely exhausted.

On Saturday, the 1st of March, the Malays acquired a great accession of strength, by the arrival of 14 more proas from the northward (probably of the old party,) who joined in breaking up the remains of the wreck.

At day-light, on Sunday, the 2d, still greater force having joined them during the night, the pirates (leaving a number at work on the wreck) advanced, with upwards of twenty of their heaviest vessels, towards our landing-place; fired one of their patereroes; beat their gongs; and, making a hideous yelling noise, they anchored in a line, about a cable's length from our cove. We were instantly under arms, the party covering the boats strengthened, and scouts sent out to watch their motions, as some of their boats had gone up the creek, at the back of our position; and to beat about, lest any should be lying in ambush from the land. About this time, the old Malay prisoner, who was under charge of the sentries at the well, and who had been incautiously trusted by them to cut some wood for the fire, hearing the howling of his tribe, left his wounded comrade to shift for himself, ran off into the wood, and escaped, carrying with him his hatchet. Finding, after waiting a short time in this state of preparation, that they made no attempt to land, an officer was sent a little outside the cove in a canoe, waving in a friendly manner, to try how they would act. After some deliberation, one of their boats, with several men armed with

with creeses, or their crooked daggers, approached: here, as usual, little could be made out, except a display of their marauding spirit, by taking a fancy to the shirt and trowsers of one of the young gentlemen in the canoe; but, on his refusing to give them up, they used no force.

A letter was now written, and addressed to the chief authority at Minto, a small settlement on the northwest point of Banca, stating the situation in which we were placed, and requesting him to forward, if in his power, one or two small vessels to us, with a little bread and salt provisions, and some ammunition. Again the officer went out in the canoe, and was again met by the Malay boat. This letter was given to them, the word Minto repeatedly pronounced, (which they seemed to understand,) the direction pointed out, and signs made that on their return with an answer they should be rewarded with abundance of dollars, shewing them one as a specimen. This was done more to try them than with any hope of their performing the service; for, although a boat went down to Pulo Challa, (where they appeared to have somebody in superior authority,) yet none took the direction of Banca. Meantime their force rapidly increased, their proas and boats of different sizes amounting to fifty. The larger had from sixteen to twenty men; the smaller about seven or eight; so that, averaging even at the lowest ten each, they had fully five hundred men. The wreck seemed now nearly exhausted, and appeared to be a very secondary object, knowing the chief booty must be in our

possession; and they blockaded us with increased rigour, drawing closer into the cove, more especially at high water, fearful lest our boats, being afloat at that period, should push out and escape them. In the afternoon some of the Rajah's people (whom we at first considered our friends) made their appearance, as if seeking a parley; and on communicating with them, gave us to understand by signs, and as many words as could be made out, that all the Malays, except their party, were extremely hostile to us; that it was their determination to attack us that night; and urging also that some of their people should sleep up the hill, in order to protect us. Their former conduct and present connexions displayed so evidently the treachery of this offer, that it is needless to say it was rejected, giving them to understand we could trust to ourselves. They immediately returned to their gang, who certainly assumed a most menacing attitude. In the evening, when the officers and men were assembled as usual under arms, in order to inspect them, and settle the watches for the night, the captain spoke to them with much animation, almost verbatim as follows: "My lads, you must all have observed this day, as well as myself, the great increase of the enemy's force, for enemies we must now consider them, and the threatening posture they have assumed. I have, on various grounds, strong reason to believe they will attack us this night. I do not wish to conceal our real state, because I think there is not a man here who is afraid to face any sort of danger.

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We are now strongly fenced in, and our position in all respects so good, that, armed as we are, we ought to make a formidable defence against even regular troops: what then would be thought of us, if we allowed ourselves to be surprised by a set of naked savages, with their spears and creeses? It is true they have swivels in their boats, but they cannot act here. I have not observed that they have any matchlocks or muskets; but, if they have, so have we. I do not wish to deceive you as to the means of resistance in our power. When we were first thrown together on shore, we were almost defenceless; seventy-five ball-cartridges only could be mustered: we have now sixteen hundred! They cannot, I believe, send up more than five hundred men; but, with two hundred such as now stand around me, I do not fear a thousand, nay, fifteen hundred of them! I have the fullest confidence we shall beat them; the pike-men standing firm, we can give them such a volley of musketry as they will be little prepared for; and, when we find they are thrown into confusion, we'll sally out among them, chase them into the water, and ten to one but we secure their vessels. Let every man, therefore, be on the alert with his arms in his hands; and, should these barbarians this night attempt our hill, I trust we shall convince them that they are dealing with Britons." Perhaps three jollier hurras were never given than at the conclusion of this short but well-timed address. The woods fairly echoed again; whilst the piquet at the cove, and those stationed at

the wells, the instant it caught their ear, instinctively joined their sympathetic cheers to the general chorus.

There was something like unity and concord in such a sound, (one neither resembling the feeble shout nor savage yell,) which, rung in the ears of these gentlemen, no doubt had its effect; for about this time (8 P.M.) they were observed making signals with lights to some of their tribe behind the islet. If ever seamen or marines had a strong inducement to fight, it was on the present occasion, for every thing conduced to animate them. The feeling excited by a savage, cruel, and inhospitable aggression on the part of the Malays,—an aggression adding calamity to misfortune,—roused every mind to a spirit of just revenge; and the appeal now made to them on the score of national character was not likely to let that feeling cool. That they might come, seemed to be the anxious wish of every heart. After a slender but cheerful repast, the men lay down as usual upon their arms, whilst the captain remained with those on guard to superintend his arrangements. An alarm during the night shewed the effect of preparation on the people's minds, for all like lightning were at their posts, and returned growling and disappointed because the alarm was false.

Day-light, on Monday the 3d, discovered the pirates exactly in the same position in front of us; ten more vessels having joined them during the night, making their number now at least six hundred men. "The plot began to thicken," and our situation be-

came

came hourly more critical. Their force rapidly accumulating, and our little stock of provisions daily shortening, rendered some desperate measure immediately necessary.

That which seemed most feasible was by a sudden night attack, with our four boats well armed, to carry by boarding some of their vessels, and, by manning them, repeat our attack with increased force, taking more, or dispersing them. The possession of some of their proas, in addition to our own boats, (taking into consideration that our numbers would be thinned on the occasion,) might enable us to shove off for Java, in defiance of them. Any attempt to move on a raft, with their vessels playing round it, armed with swivels, was evidently impossible. Awful as our situation now was, and every hour becoming more so ;—starvation staring us in the face, on one hand, and without a hope of mercy from the savages on the other ;—yet there were no symptoms of depression, or gloomy despair ; every mind seemed buoyant ; and, if any estimate of the general feeling could be collected from countenances, from the manner and expressions of all, there appeared to be formed in every breast a calm determination to dash at them, and be successful ; or to fall, as became men, in the attempt to be free.

About noon on this day, whilst schemes and proposals were flying about, as to the mode of executing the measures in view, Mr. Johnstone, (ever on the alert,) who had mounted the look-out tree, one of the loftiest on the summit of our hill, descried a sail at a

great distance to the southward, which he thought larger than a Malay vessel. The buzz of conversation was in a moment hushed, and every eye fixed anxiously on the tree for the next report, a signal-man and telescope being instantly sent up. She was now lost sight of from a dark squall overspreading that part of the horizon, but in about twenty minutes she again emerged from the cloud, and was decidedly announced to be a square-rigged vessel. “Are you quite sure of that?” was eagerly inquired :—“Quite certain,” was the reply :—“it is either a ship or a brig standing towards the island ; under all sail !”—The joy this happy sight infused, and the gratitude of every heart at this prospect of deliverance, may be more easily conceived than described. It occasioned a sudden transition of the mind from one train of thinking to another, as if waking from a disagreeable dream. We immediately displayed our colours on the highest branch of the tree, to attract attention, lest she should only be a passing stranger.

The pirates soon after this discovered the ship, (a signal having been made with a gun by those anchored behind Pulo Chalacca,) which occasioned an evident stir among them. As the water was ebbing fast, it was thought possible, by an unexpected rush out to the edge of the reef, to get some of them under fire, and secure them. They seemed, however, to have suspected our purpose ; for, the moment the seamen and marines appeared from under the mangroves, the nearest proa let fly her swivel among a party

party of the officers, who had been previously wading outwards, and the whole, instantly getting under weigh, made sail off, fired at by our people, but unfortunately without effect; for, in addition to the dexterous management of their boats, the wind enabled them to weather the rocks. It was fortunate, however, this attack on them took place, and that it had the effect of driving them away: for had they stood their ground, we were as much in their power as ever, the ship being obliged to anchor eight miles to leeward of the island, and eleven or twelve from our position, on account of the wind and current; and, as this wind and current continued the same for some time afterwards, they might, most easily, with their force, have cut off all communication between us. Indeed it was a most providential and extraordinary circumstance, during this monsoon, that the ship was able to fetch up so far as she did. The blockade being now raised, the gig, with Messrs. Sykes and Abbot, was despatched to the ship, which proved to be the *Ternate*, one of the company's cruisers, sent by Lord Amherst to our assistance, having on board Messrs. Ellis and Hoppner, who embarked on the day of their arrival at Batavia, and pushed back to the island.

The gig was able to return (being a light boat); but our friends, who attempted to pull ashore in the cutter, were compelled to put back, after struggling with the current for nine hours, during the night of Monday, and morning of Tuesday the 4th. That

day was employed in getting all the moveables we had saved from the wreck ready for embarkation. Wednesday the 5th, landed Messrs. Ellis and Hoppner: the recollection of the voluntary promise made by the former at parting, now fulfilled, and re-appearing as a deliverer, added to the many interesting and peculiar circumstances of the meeting, gave a new glow to every feeling of friendship; and on entering Fort Maxwell, they were received with heartfelt acclamation by the whole garrison under arms.

This fortification and its inhabitants had altogether a very singular and romantic look. The wigwams (or dens, as they were called) of some, neatly formed by branches, and thatched with the palm-leaf, scattered about at the feet of the majestic trees, which shaded our circle; the rude tents of others; the wrecked, unshaven, ragged appearance of the men, with pikes and cutlasses in their hands, gave, more especially by fire-light at night, a wild and picturesque effect to this spot, far beyond any robber-scene the imagination can pourtray.

Two of the *Ternate's* boats also arrived with a twelve-pounder carronade, some round and grape, and musket ammunition, in the event of the pirates thinking proper to return before we had finished our business; which, from the difficulty of communicating, required the whole of Wednesday to perform.

On Thursday the 6th, the majority of the officers and men embarked in the boats (now increased in number), and proceeded to

to the Ternate ; the raft, also, with four officers and forty-six men, and a cow, got under sail, and, after a comfortable cold-bath navigation of eight hours, reached the ship after dark. Every article which could not be carried off, and was thought might be of the slightest use to the savages, was piled into a heap, on the top of the hill, and made into a bonfire.

At midnight the boats returned to bring off Captain Maxwell, and those remaining with him ; the whole arriving safe on board the Ternate on the morning of the 7th March, where we were most hospitably received by Captain Davidson and his officers.

The island of Pulo Leat is about six miles long, and five broad ; situate about two degrees and a half to the southward of the equator : it lies next to Banca, and is in the line of islands between it and Borneo. As far as we could explore, (and exploring was no easy task) it appeared to produce nothing for the use of man. We found a great number of the rinds of what we afterwards discovered at Batavia to be the far famed and delicious mangustin, which only thrives near the Line ; but the baboons, who manage to live here, had previously monopolized all the fruit. Had we found any entire, we might have indulged in them, even without knowing their nature ; as, more especially in a case of short commons like ours, there could be no great danger in following the example of a monkey. We found a number of oysters adhering to the rocks along the sea-shore, which at first we were afraid to eat, from their exciting

thirst ; but as soon as we were happy enough to obtain a sufficient supply of water, they very speedily disappeared.

The soil of the island appears to be capable of affording any production of the torrid zone, and, if cleared and cultivated, would be a very pretty place ; the tree which produces the caoutchouc or Indian rubber grows here.

From something like smoke having been repeatedly observed rising at one particular place among the trees, about a mile from the head of our creek, it was by some imagined that either the island was peopled, or that the savages had taken post there. In various attempts, however, to reconnoitre this spot, no trace of human footstep could be found, being in every direction an impenetrable thicket ; and we ultimately ascertained that it was entirely uninhabited.

The small stock of provisions saved from the wreck, and the uncertainty of our stay there, rendered economy in their distribution, as well as the preventing any waste or abuse, a most important duty. The mode adopted by Captain Maxwell, to make things go as far as possible, was to chop up the allowance for the day into small pieces, whether fowls, salt beef, pork, or flour, mixing the whole hotch-potch, boiling them together, and serving out a measure of this to each, publicly and openly, and without any distinction. By these means no nourishment was lost ; it could be more equally divided than by any other way : and, although necessarily a scanty, it was not an
unsavoury

unsavoury mess. All the bread, except a few pounds, was lost. The men had half allowance of rum divided between dinner and supper, (sometimes more on hard fags,) and the officers two glasses of wine at dinner, and a quarter allowance of rum (a small dram-glass) at supper. It is astonishing how soon order sprung out of confusion, and the general cheerfulness and content which prevailed, for Saturday night was drank in defiance of the Malays.

A small bag of oatmeal was found one morning, which some of the young Scotch midshipmen considered as their own, and sat down, with great glee and smiling countenances, round a washhand basin full of burgoo, made from it; but they reckoned too securely on the antipathies of their English friends, (for not thinking this, perhaps, a proper time for indulging national prejudices) they claimed their share, and managed to get through it without a wry face. A few weeks schooling on a desert isle would also be a great blessing to many thousands who are capriciously unbappy in the midst of superfluity, and wretched only because they have never known distress.

The guards at the posts, covering the boats, were generally under charge, alternately, of Lieut. Hay, Messrs. Casey, Johnstone, Sykes, Abbot, Brownrigg, and Hope. The garrison duty, at night, was conducted, in turns, by the surgeon, chaplain, Messrs. Eden, Raper, Mostyn, Stopford, and Gore; thus making it light, and enabling them to keep their eyes open, and walk vigilantly round to observe that all the sen-

tries were on the alert, and called out every quarter of an hour; the younger midshipmen, Messrs. Maxwell, Martin, Hawthorn, Gordon, and Browne, being perched, in rotation, on the look-out rock during the day, to watch the motions of the pirates, and give notice of any ship or vessel which might appear in the offing.

As there is no evil from which some good may not be derived, so the young officers had, on the present occasion, an opportunity of marking the resources which spring from self-possession and cool exertion, even under the most appalling difficulties; and thereby of imbibing a character of promptitude, with a contempt of helpless indecision—a failing of all others, in cases of danger or emergency, not only the most injurious to private fame, but to the public service.

It is somewhat remarkable, that, during our stay here of nineteen days, exposed alternately to heavy rain, and the fierce heat of a vertical sun, none were taken sick, and those who landed so (some very ill) all recovered, except a marine, who was in the last stage of a liver complaint, contracted whilst in China, as one of guard to the Ambassador. Another man, of very troublesome character, thought proper to leave his companions on the third day after landing. He may have been bitten by a serpent in the woods, and died there, or have fallen into the hands of the savages; but he was never afterwards heard of. We marked with oil and blacking, in large characters, on the rocks, the date of our departure, to be a guide to any that might come there

there in quest of us, and in the afternoon of the 7th, we bid adieu to Pulo Leat, where it is not wonderful that, in our situation, we should have suffered some hardship and privation; but it is remarkable, indeed, that, surrounded by so many dangers, the occurrence of any one of which would have proved fatal, that we should have escaped the whole. We had, for example, great reason to be thankful that the ship did not fall from the rocks on which she first struck into deeper water, for then all must have perished;—that no accident happened to the boats which conveyed the embassy to Batavia; for, in that case, we should never have been heard of;—that we found water;—that no mutiny or division took place among ourselves;—that we had been able and willing to stand our ground against the pirates;—and that the Ternate had succeeded in anchoring in sight of the island; which she was enabled to do by a fortuitous slant of wind for an hour or two. Had we been unfortunate in any one of these circumstances, few would have remained to tell our tale.

An Account of the Natives of the TONGA ISLANDS in the South Pacific Ocean. Compiled and arranged from the extensive Communications of Mr. William Mariner, several years resident in those islands. By JOHN MARTIN, M.D. In 2 vols. 8vo.

The Tonga islands, named by Capt. Cook the Friendly islands, of which, one of the principal was known under the appellation of

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Tongataboo, lie nearly in latitude 20 S. to the west of Otaheite. William Mariner, then a youth, was engaged by his father's consent to accompany Captain Duck in a ship which had a two-fold commission, which was first to cruise for prizes, and then to double Cape Horn, and proceed into the Pacific Ocean in search of whales. The vessel, named the Port-au-Prince, having met with small success in the earlier part of her cruise, entered upon the second part of her commission, and employed a considerable part of the year 1806 in whaling. At length the ship anchored for the last time at Lefooga, one of the Friendly Islands, where it was deserted, first by four of the crew, and then by fifteen others. This desertion was probably the cause of an attack by the natives, which took place on the first of December 1806, and ended in the death of all the crew except Mariner, who was probably preserved in consequence of his youth. He fortunately attracted the notice of Finow, the king of the islands, before whom he was brought, and by whose orders the ship was run aground and plundered.

Mariner, who was born near London, on September 10, 1791, was somewhat past 15 at the time of this unhappy event. Under the patronage of Finow, and after his death, of his son, he passed some years in tolerable comfort; and he, with some of his remaining companions who had gone ashore before the massacre, were engaged to join an expedition against the Isle of Tonga. At length, in the year 1810, being with three other men, in a canoe of his own, he

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cast

cast his eye upon a sail just as the sun had descended beneath it, and directed his men to paddle him on board. As they made some scruple, he gave a violent stab in the loins with a musket to one of the three, which disabled him, and the other two submitted to his orders. The vessel proved to be the English brig *Favourite*, bound to Macao roads, and thence to England. To this fortunate escape, for such it was, the history of the Tonga islands owes its origin, as will appear from the preceding account of its composition. His arrival at Gravesend is dated in June 1811.

From the voluminous narrative relating to these isles we shall only copy the 17th chapter, in which are discussed the different ranks in society under which the natives are distributed, from the king to the peasant.

“The rank or estimation in which individuals are held in society at the Tonga islands may be most conveniently treated of, first, under three different points of view, viz. religious, civil, and professional, with reference to their mythology, political subordination, and their arts and manufactures; and secondly, with reference to old age, female sex, and infancy. In this chapter, we propose to speak merely of rank in society, and the degree of respect due from one man to another; all which is determined in regard to every individual, by one or other, or more of the foregoing circumstances, mythology, politics, arts, age, sex, and childhood.

To divide society into distinct classes, and to discourse of the degree of rank or respect accruing to individuals, accordingly as they

may belong to one or other of these classes, would be a task very difficult to execute, and perhaps impossible in respect to the people of these islands; at least, not without making numerous exceptions and explanations, which would only be the means of rendering the description both tedious and complicate. For one and the same individual (a priest), who to-day is held in scarcely any estimation, may to-morrow (under the influence of the inspiration of some god), take place of every body present, seat himself at the head of the cava ring, be respected as the god himself, and his discourse attentively listened to as oracular. Again,—the king himself, whom one might suppose to be the greatest person in the country, (and in fact he has the greatest power) is by no means the highest noble, but must yield in point of rank to many others. In this order of things, therefore, we shall first speak of those persons to whom rank and respect is yielded, on the score of religious circumstances; and these are *Tooitonga*, *Veachi*, and the priests.

We here speak of *Tooitonga* as if actually existing in his full rank, with all the public honours of religious estimation; but it will be recollected, that before Mr. Mariner's departure from Vavaoo the king had done away entirely with all the ceremonies formerly considered due to the divine character of this chief; and as this was done immediately after *Tooitonga's* death, his son did not succeed to this high title; so that if affairs still remain in the same state at Vavaoo, there is at present no *Tooitonga*, and probably never again

again will be ; but if there should happen some violent political change, it is possible the son of the late divine chief may be raised to that honour : we therefore speak of Tooitonga as if actually existing. The family name of Tooitonga is Fatafehi, and the present head of the family the only son (of legitimate rank) is now a youth of about 16 or 17 years of age ; his name is Fatafehi Low fili Tonga : he is still considered a chief of high rank, and has respect paid to him accordingly.

Tooitonga and Veachi are both acknowledged descendants of chief gods who formerly visited the islands of Tonga, but whether their original mothers were goddesses or merely natives of Tonga, is a question which they do not pretend to decide. Of these two personages, Tooitonga, as may be guessed from his title, is far higher in rank ;—the word imports chief of Tonga, which island has always been considered the most noble of all the Friendly islands, and from time immemorial the greatest chiefs have been accustomed to make it their principal place of residence, and after their decease to be buried there in the tombs of their ancestors. This island moreover gives name, by way of pre-eminence, to all the islands taken collectively, as a capital town sometimes gives name to a country ; and withal it has acquired the epithet of sacred, *táboo*, and is thus sometimes called *Tonga táboo* ; denoting its excellence ; from this circumstance it is erroneously noted down in our charts *Tongataboo* ; but *táboo* is only an epithet occasionally used. The respect which is shewn to Tooi-

tonga, and the high rank which he holds in society, is wholly of a religious nature, and is far superior, when occasion demands it, to that which is shewn even to the king himself ; for this latter, as will by and by be seen, is by no means of the most noble descent, but yields in this respect to Tooitonga, Veachi, and several families related to them ; and if the king were accidentally to meet any chief of nobler descent than himself, he would have to sit down on the ground till the other had passed him, which is a mark of respect that a common peasant would be obliged to shew to any chief or egi whatsoever ; and for this reason the king never associates with any chief superior to himself, and always endeavours to avoid meeting them, and they in like manner endeavour to avoid him, that he might not be put to the trouble of sitting down while they passed : for if any one were to forego this ceremony in presence of a superior egi, some calamity from the gods would be expected as a punishment for the omission. Sitting down is with them a mark of respect, as standing up is with us, before a superior ; upon the principle, perhaps, that in this posture a man cannot so readily attack or assassinate the person in whose presence he is ; or it may be that in this posture lowering his height is significant of his rank or merit being humbled in presence of the other.

There are many ceremonies which characterise the high respect and veneration shewn to Tooitonga ; but as in this place we are discoursing of rank, not of ceremonies, the full description of

the latter must be deferred till we come to speak of religious rites. Here we shall only mention, in a general way, in what these ceremonies chiefly consist.

1. The grand ceremony of *ina'chi*, which is performed once a year (about the month of October), and consists in offering the first fruits of the year to Tooitonga. It was supposed that if this ceremony were neglected, the vengeance of the gods would fall in a signal manner upon the people.

2. Peculiarity of his marriage ceremony.

3. Peculiarity of his burial ceremony.

4. Peculiarity of the mourning for his decease.

5. Tooitonga is not circumcised, as all the other men are, unless he goes to foreign islands to undergo this ceremony; nor is he tattooed.

6. Peculiarities of speech used in regard to Tooitonga; for instance, if the king or any chief but Tooitonga be sick, they say he is *ténga tángi*, but Tooitonga being sick, he is said to be *boo-loo'hi*: so with many other words that are used exclusively for him, and which will be noticed hereafter.

These things are mentioned in this place, merely to afford an idea of the high veneration in which Tooitonga is held; for to whom but the greatest personage can such peculiarities belong? Notwithstanding his high rank, however, he has comparatively but very little absolute power, which extends in a direct and positive manner only to his own family and attendants: as to his property, he

has somewhat more than the generality of the nobles, but much less than the king, who by his arbitrary sovereignty can lay claim to almost any thing.

Thus all that can be said in this place of Tooitonga is, that he is by far the greatest egi, having the credit of a high divine original, and that all respect and veneration is therefore due to him.

Veachi, as mentioned before, is another egi of divine original, but far from being equal to Tooitonga. The king, indeed, avoids his presence, the same as he would that of Tooitonga, and always pays him the usual obeisance when he happens to meet him: but he has no peculiar marks of high respect shewn to him, as are shewn to Tooitonga; that is to say, no ceremonies that are, in themselves, peculiar and different from what are shewn to other chiefs by their inferiors. There is this one universal acknowledgment, however, viz. that he is a great chief descended from a god, that he is next in rank to Tooitonga, and superior to every other chief. His name has no known literal meaning that Mr. Mariner can discover.

Priests or Fahe-gehe. The term fahe-gehe means split off, separate, or distinct from, and is applied to signify a priest, or man, who has a peculiar or distinct sort of mind or soul, differing from that of the generality of mankind, which disposes some god occasionally to inspire him. These inspirations, of which an account has been given vol. i. p. 105, frequently happen, and on such occasions the priest has the same deference and respect shewn to him.

him as if he were the god himself; if the king happen to be present, he retires to a respectful distance, and sits down among the body of the spectators, so would Veachi, and so would even the high divine chief Tooitonga, because a god is believed to exist at that moment in the priest, and to speak from his mouth: but at other times a priest has no other respect paid to him than what his own proper family rank may require. They generally belong to the lower order of chiefs, or to the matabooles, though sometimes great chiefs are thus visited by the gods, and the king himself has been inspired by Tali-y-toobo, the chief of the gods. During the time a priest is inspired he is looked on with more or less veneration, according to the rank of the god that inspires him. But more upon this subject under the head of religion.

The civil ranks of society may be thus divided; How, or King; Egi, or Nobles; Matabooles; Mooas, and Tooas.

The How, or King, is an arbitrary monarch, deriving his right to the throne partly from hereditary succession, and partly from military power, which latter he is occasionally obliged to exert to secure himself in the former. His power and influence over the minds of the people is derived from the following circumstances; viz. hereditary right; supposed protection of the gods, if he is the lawful heir; his reputation as a warrior; the nobility of his descent; and lastly, but not leastly, the strength and number of his fighting men. He, of course, possesses the greatest power of any individual, but, in respect to rank, as before ob-

served, he is differently circumstanced. In this last particular, not only Tooitonga, Veachi, and priests actually inspired, are superior to him, but even several other nobles are higher in rank, not as to office or power, but as to blood, or descent, for nobility consists in being related either to Tooitonga, Veachi, or the How, and the nearer any family is related to them, the nobler it is; those related to Tooitonga being nobler than those equally related to Veachi, and those related to this latter being more noble than those equally related to the How. Hence it appears that there must be many egis more noble even than the king himself, and to such the king, meeting them, must shew the same marks of respect as are usual from an inferior to a superior: and if he were to touch any thing personally belonging to the superior chief, as himself, or his garments, or the mat on which he sleeps, he becomes tabooed, as it is termed, or under the prohibition to feed himself with his own hands; or, if he does, it is at the risk of becoming diseased, or suffering some other calamity from the gods as a punishment: but from this taboo he can readily free himself, by performing the ceremony of *moe-moe*, which consists in touching, with both hands, the feet of the superior chief, or of one equal to him: but more of these ceremonies in their proper place.

Egi, or Nobles. All those persons are egi, or nobles, or chiefs (for we have used these terms synonymously), who are any way related either to the family of Tooitonga, or Veachi, or the How: and all
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and nobody else but chiefs, have the privilege of freeing people from the taboo, under circumstances, and in the manner related in the above paragraph. Tooitonga and Veachi may easily be conceived the source of nobility, on account of their supposed divine original, and the How because he holds the reins of government, and is invested with power. The family of Finow, who is the present How, say, that they descended neither from Tooitonga nor Veachi, but are altogether a distinct race: the fact, probably, is, that Finow's family is a distant branch of one of the others; but having at length ascended the throne, it drew its rank and consequence more from this circumstance than from such distant relationship. The present Finow's father was the first of his family that came to the throne, which he did by usurpation and expulsion of the then reigning family. (Vide vol. i. p. 77.) The Hows before that time, as far back as they have credible records, which is not more than about four, or at most, five generations, were all relations of Tooitonga. At all events, this is certain, that the present acknowledged fountains of nobility are Tooitonga, Veachi, and the king, in the order in which they here stand. In every family nobility descends by the female line; for where the mother is not a noble, the children are not nobles; but supposing the father and mother to be nearly equal by birth, the following is the order in which the individuals of the family are to be ranked, viz. the father, the mother, the eldest son, the eldest daughter, the second son, the second daughter,

&c. or, if there be no children, the next brother to the man, then the sister, the second brother, the second sister, &c. But if the woman is more noble than the man, then her relations, in like order, take precedence in rank, but they do not inherit his property, as will be seen in another place. All the children of a female noble are, without exception, nobles.

The Matabooles rank next to the chiefs; they are a sort of honourable attendants upon chiefs, are their companions, counsellors, and advisers; they see that the orders and wishes of their chiefs are duly executed, and may not improperly be called their ministers, and are more or less regarded according to the rank of the chief to whom they are attached. They have the management of all ceremonies. Their rank is from inheritance; and they are supposed to have been, originally, distant relations of the nobles, or to have descended from persons eminent for experience and wisdom, and whose acquaintance and friendship on that account became valuable to the king, and other great chiefs. As no man can assume the rank and title of mataboole till his father be dead, the greater part of them are beyond the middle age of life, and, as it is their business to make themselves acquainted with all rites and ceremonies, and with the manners, customs, and affairs of Tonga, they are always looked up to as men of experience and superior information. Some of the matabooles are adepts also at some art or profession, such as canoe-building, or superintending funeral rites: this last, though a ceremony the generality

ality of matabooles do not attend, as it is also a distinct profession. Those few that are canoe-builders are very perfect in their art, and only make canoes for the king, or other great chiefs. The matabooles also make themselves acquainted with traditionary records, and hand them down to their sons. When a mataboole dies his eldest son, or, if he have no son, his next brother, becomes a mataboole. All the sons and brothers of matabooles are mooas.

Mooas are the next class of people below the matabooles; they are either the sons or brothers of matabooles, or descendants of the latter. As the sons and brothers of matabooles are mooas, and as no mooa can become a mataboole till his father or brother whom he is to succeed is dead, so in like manner, the sons and brothers of mooas are only tooas, and no tooa can become a mooa till his father or brother whom he is to succeed is dead. The mooas have much to do in assisting at public ceremonies, such as sharing out food and cava under the direction of the matabooles: they sometimes arrange and direct instead of the matabooles, unless on very grand occasions. Like the matabooles, they form part of the retinue of chiefs, and are more or less respected according to the rank of their chiefs. Most of the mooas are professors of some art.

Both matabooles and mooas have the business of attending to the good order of society, to look to the morals of the younger chiefs, who are apt to run into excesses, and oppress the lower orders (the tooas), in which case they admonish them, and if they pay no

attention, they report them to the older chiefs, and advise that something should be done to remedy such evils. They are very much respected by all classes. Tooas are the lowest order of all, or the bulk of the people. They are all, by birth, *ky fonnooa*, or peasants; but some of them are employed occasionally in the various occupations of performing the tattow, cooking, club-carving, and shaving, according to their abilities in these respective arts, and meet with encouragement by presents. Those tooas that are evidently related to mooas, and consequently have a chance of becoming mooas, are respected by those who can trace no such relationship.

Professional Class of Society.—We now come to speak of those who draw respect rather than rank according to their usefulness in different arts and manufactures, more or less regarded. Some of these, as we have before seen, are matabooles, and rank accordingly, the greater part of them are mooas, and the remainder of course tooas.

Among those that practise the arts there are many that do it because their fathers did the same before them, and consequently have brought them up to it, and these are for the most part such as practise arts that are considered ingenious, and therefore respectable; and hence they have no motive sufficiently strong (unless it be sometimes laziness), to engage them to relinquish it, particularly as they obtain presents from their chiefs for their ingenuity. There is no positive law to oblige them to follow the business of their fathers, nor any motive but the honourable

honourable estimation in which their arts are held, or their own interest, or the common custom.

None of them are matabooles but a few of the canoe builders and the superintendants of funeral rites, perhaps about a fifth or a sixth part of them, and some of these are very expert in cutting ornaments out of whales teeth for necklaces, or for inlaying clubs, likewise in making clubs and spears, and other warlike instruments, which are not separate professions, but arts practised by the canoe-builders as being expert in the use of the *togi* or axe; at least there are no *toofoonga fonole* (inlayers of ivory), nor *toofoonga gnahi mea tow* (makers of warlike instruments), but who are also canoe-builders. All the *toofoonga fo vaca* (canoe-builders), and *toofoonga taboo* (intendants of funeral rites); that are not matabooles, are mooas, for no person of so low a rank as a *tooa* can practise such respectable arts.

The remaining professions are followed both by mooas and tooas, with the exception of the three following, viz. *toofoonga fy cava* (barbers or shavers with shells), *tangata fe oomoo* (cooks), and *ky fonnooa* (peasants), all of whom are tooas.

Of the different professions, some are hereditary in the way before mentioned, and some are not; the latter consist of *toofoonga ta tattow* (those who perform the tattow), *toofoonga tongi acow* (club carvers, or engravers of the handle, not inlayers); and *toofoonga fy cava* (barbers). The arts followed by these are not hereditary, because they are not of that respectability to engage a man to

follow any of them because his father did the same; they are practised by any one who has a natural turn that way.

But the two lowest of all, viz. the cooks and peasants, are such by inheritance, for the chiefs in whose service they may be, necessarily require their services, and their children naturally succeed them, for neither of these arts require any great talent to learn: every body knows how to cook and till the ground in a tolerable degree; but those who are born to no better fate have no alternative left them, they must follow these necessary employments as the business of their life, if their chiefs command them; and to such alone the terms cook and peasants are here applied. The cook is somewhat the superior; he sees to the supplying of provisions, takes care of the storehouse, looks to the thatching and fences of the dwelling-house, occasionally gives an eye to the plantation, and sometimes works upon it himself. The head cook is generally not a little proud of himself, and is looked on with some respect by the cooks below him and the common peasants.

The term cook is frequently applied to a man though he be not a cook, to signify that he is of very low rank: for although a cook belonging to a chief may give himself many airs, and be thought something of by the common tooas about him; yet if there be a company of peasants together, he that has the least to boast of in respect of family connexions is sure to be made the cook, and as it were servant to the rest.

The following then will be the order

order in which the different professions will stand as to the respect they may command in society:—all individuals are not, however, esteemed according to their profession, but according to their abilities in it; for a clever man in one art will be sometimes more esteemed than a man of moderate abilities in a higher. In this arrangement the cooks are placed before the peasants, because the cooks of chiefs generally have to overlook them.

	Hereditary.	Toofóonga fo váca; canoe builders.	}	Followed both by matabooles and mooas.
		Toofóonga fóno le; cutters of whale-teeth ornaments.		
		Toofóonga táboo; superintendants of funeral rites.		
	Hereditary.	Toofóonga ta máca; stone-masons, or makers of stone-coffins.	}	Followed both by mooas and tooas.
		Toofóonga jia cobénga; net makers.		
		Toofóonga toty' íca; fishermen.		
		Toofóonga lánnga fálle; large house-builders.		
	Hereditary or not.	Toofóonga ta tatto'w; those who perform the tattow.	}	
		Toofóonga tongi aców; club-carvers.		
	Hereditary.	Toofóonga fy cava; barbers or shavers with shells.	}	Followed only by tooas.
		Tangáta fe oo'moo; cooks.		
		Ky fonnoo'a; peasants.		

Property in these islands, as may easily be conjectured, consists principally in plantations, houses, and canoes, and the right of succession to it is regulated by the order of relationship, as given under the head of Nobles, p. 89, so in like manner is the right of succession to the throne.

Having given a view of the rank of individuals in society, with reference to religion, civil government, and professional occupations; we have now to consider it in respect to old age, sex, and childhood.

Old persons of both sexes are highly revered on account of

their age and experience, in so much that it constitutes a branch of their first moral and religious duty, viz. to reverence the gods, the chiefs, and aged persons; and consequently there is hardly any instance in these islands of old age being wantonly insulted.

Women have considerable respect shewn to them on account of their sex, independent of the rank they might otherwise hold as nobles. They are considered to contribute much to the comforts and domestic happiness of the other sex, and as they are the weaker of the two, it is thought unmanly not to shew them attention and kind

kind regard; they are therefore not subjected to hard labour or any very menial work. Those that are nobles rank like the men according to the superiority of their relationship. If a woman not a noble is the wife or daughter of a mataboole, she ranks as a mataboole; if she be a noble, she is superior in rank to him, and so are the children male and female; but in domestic matters she submits entirely to his arrangements; notwithstanding this, however, she never loses the respect from her husband due to her rank, that is to say, he is obliged to perform the ceremony of mo'ë-mo'ë before he can feed himself. If the husband and wife are both nobles of equal rank, the ceremony of mo'ë-mo'ë is dispensed with; but where there is any difference the inferior must perform this ceremony to be freed from the taboo. If a woman marries a man higher in rank than herself, she always derives additional respect on that account; but a man having a wife who is a greater noble than himself acquires no additional respect from this source, but he has the advantage of her larger property.

It is a custom in the Tonga islands for women to be what they call mothers to children or grown up young persons who are not their own, for the purpose of providing them or seeing that they are provided with all the conveniences of life; and this is often done, although their own natural mothers be living, and residing near the spot,—no doubt for the sake of greater care and attention, or to be afterwards a substitute for the true parent, in the event

of her premature death; but the original intention seems not now understood, for it happens sometimes, that a young man having both his natural mother and a wife living, will take it in his head to have an adopted mother, whom he regards the same as his natural parent. If a woman is the foster mother to a person superior to herself, which is mostly the case, she acquires no additional respect from this source in society, though the adopted person be ever so great a noble; but if a woman is an attendant to a person of consequence, some respect always accrues to her on that account, because it is a thing publicly known, she forming a part of the retinue of the chief, and accompanying him every where; whereas, the relation in which a woman stands to her adopted son or daughter is more a matter of private agreement and mutual understanding. Thus, Mafi Habe, one of the wives of Finow the first, the father of the present king, was Mr. Mariner's foster mother, appointed by the king her husband. To this person Mr. Mariner feels himself greatly indebted for a considerable portion of his intimate knowledge of the language and true customs of Tonga, in contradistinction to words and customs introduced from other islands. She would frequently take the greatest pains in teaching him the correct Tonga pronunciation, and would laugh him out of all little habits and customs, in dress, manners, and conversation, that were not strictly according to the Tonga fashion, or not considered sufficiently polished and becoming an egi (noble.) In all respects, and
on

on every occasion, she conducted herself towards him with the greatest maternal affection, modesty, and propriety: she was a woman of great understanding, personal beauty, and amiable manners.

If a young girl is betrothed, or set apart to be the wife or concubine of a noble higher in rank than herself, she derives more respect on that account, independent of what is due to her own proper rank.

The women employ themselves (particularly nobles,) in making a variety of articles, chiefly ornamental; these employments, however, are considered accomplishments, not professions: some of the higher class of women not only make these employments an amusement, but actually make a sort of trade of it, without prejudice to their rank; which is what the lower class of women could not do, because what they make is not their own property, but is done by the order of their superiors; the highest accomplishments cannot add to a woman's rank, though it does somewhat to the estimation in which she may be held, for such things, when well done, are honourable in a woman of rank. These things will be farther spoken of hereafter.

Children acquire their rank by inheritance, as before observed, from the mother's side: if she be not a noble they are not, and *vice versa*. If a man, however high his rank, have a child by a woman who is only a tooa, no matter whether they are married or not, (but indeed there is no instance of a noble marrying a tooa,) that

child would not be a noble, though it were known that the father was a noble; the child might rank as a mooa, but not higher: on the contrary, if a woman who is a noble were to have a child by a tooa, the child would be a noble; but this perhaps seldom happens, for the pride of the females would not allow of such a low intrigue; or if such a circumstance were to take place, the greatest care would be used that it should not be known. Children that are nobles are somewhat less respected, as may be supposed, on account of their childhood; but then any familiarity or slight disrespect that might be shewn them would only be by nobles nearly equal or superior to them. If Finow were to see a child of superior rank approach or be brought near him, he perhaps would say, (and frequently does on such occasions,) Take that child away! why do you bring him here, troubling me with the taboo? or some such abrupt expression: such language, however, would not be decorous from an inferior, unless he be of nearly equal rank, and then only by authority of his superior age."

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE TO NEW ZEALAND.

Performed in the Years 1814 and 1815, By John Liddiard Nicholas, Esq.

The relater of this voyage accompanied the Rev. Samuel Marsden, principal chaplain of New South Wales, on whose character he has paid the highest encomiums, and whose purpose was to settle

settle a mission from the latter country to New Zealand. They were attended by a chief of the island named Duaterra, together with two other chiefs, Shungi and Korra-korra, who sailed with them from New South Wales.

In December 1814, the ship, with two other missionaries on board, arrived off the North Cape of New Zealand. Mr. Marsden was principally induced to make this attempt by a conviction that the merchant vessels which had occasionally touched upon the islands had been the aggressors, and had propagated the opinion, that the natives were no better than cannibals; he therefore, with his companions, landed without scruple upon an isle within the Bay of islands. This was very near the spot where the English ship Boyd had been totally cut off in 1809; and it happened that about a hundred of the warriors of Wangeroa, the scene of the action, were collected on the isle to attend the funeral of a deceased chief. The description given by Mr. Nicholas of his adventure with this band of warriors, is extremely striking.

“The public, I should suppose, are already aware from Mr. Marsden's statement, that the chief George, who is known by this name to the European sailors, some of whom, in all probability, first gave it to him, had been the principal agent in cutting off the Boyd, and certainly the face of this man bespoke him capable of committing so atrocious an act. His features were not unsightly, but they appeared to veil a dark and subtle malignity of intention, and the lurking treachery of a

depraved heart was perfectly legible in every one of them. He had acquired too, from his intercourse with European sailors, a coarse familiarity of manner mingled with a degree of sneering impudence, which gave him a character completely distinct from his countrymen, and making him odious in our view, reconciled us the more easily to their unsophisticated rudeness. This chief having served on board some of the whalers, could speak English very fluently, and on my going up to shake hands with him, he thought proper to return the compliment with “How do you do, my boy?” which he uttered in so characteristic a style of vulgar freedom, yet so totally unlike the blunt familiarity of honest friendship, that he excited at the same moment my abhorrence and disgust. It was necessary, however, to be very circumspect towards this designing chief, and I took care that he should see nothing in my conduct that could lead him to suspect he was at all obnoxious to me.

The contending parties being now in perfect amity with each other, and peace firmly established, we left the camp to return to the village, resolving however to come back again, and spend the night among these warriors, with whose reception of us we had every reason to be satisfied. We wished to shew them by all the means in our power, that we were capable of forgetting the enormity of the crime they had committed, and that we harboured no resentment against them for the cruel slaughter of our unfortunate countrymen. It was with this view, therefore, that we determined on trusting ourselves

ourselves for the night to their good faith, and Mr. Marsden was anxious to convince George, by such confidence, he was no longer in our eyes an object of hatred or suspicion. But whatever may have been the sentiments of this gentleman towards that insidious barbarian, my own were decidedly prejudiced against him; and if I had no apprehensions for our personal safety, it was because I trusted more to the hearts of his people, than to any other honourable principle in their chief. Assured by Duaterra that these people were never known to violate the signal they had given us, I felt perfectly at ease; and though George might himself be disposed to act treacherously, he could find none in this instance who would co-operate in his designs. Yet here let me be understood as speaking of this man only from my own individual feelings, and the impression he made on me by his appearance and behaviour, for there was no positive act to warrant the censure I have passed upon him, though I rather think I have not been much deceived as to his real character.

When we got back to the village, Duaterra, with Mr. Kendall and Mr. King, returned to the vessel, and Shunghi, who had ordered his people to prepare some fish and potatoes for our dinner, had them now brought before us, and we sat down with a good appetite. Mr. Marsden's New Zealand servant, Tommy Drummond, had by this time come on shore with some tea and an iron tea kettle, and this favourite beverage was never before more grateful to us. The repast was laid out in a large open

space, and we were quickly surrounded by crowds of the natives, each with wild amazement visible in his countenance. Men, women, and children, flocked in upon us in one oppressive body, so that to keep ourselves from being suffocated, we were obliged to form a circle, which none was allowed to pass, and seating themselves all round the verge of it, they watched our motions with the most eager curiosity. Many of them had never before in the whole course of their lives beheld an European, and to see *packaka kiki*, (the white man eat,) was a novelty of so curious a nature, that they gazed on it with wonder and delight. Our situation at this moment reminded me very forcibly of certain European kings, who to shew their subjects that monarchs must eat as well as themselves, have long been in the habit of taking their sumptuous banquets in public. They kept their eyes steadfastly fixed on us all the time, and not a single occurrence escaped their observation; while staring with surprise, they frequently called to those around them to look at the wonders we presented. Many of them expressed their astonishment in silent attention, and others, bursting out into fits of laughter at every bit we ate, were exceedingly amused by the spectacle. We distributed biscuit and sugar-candy among several of them, which they liked so well that they appeared eagerly desirous to get more, smacking their lips with an exquisite relish for these unknown luxuries.

I observed among the crowd some venerable looking old men, who

who regarded us with silent contemplation, and seemed rather occupied in forming conjectures as to the motives that induced us to visit their country, than in taking any particular notice of what we were doing. They appeared not to feel any interest whatsoever in the distribution of the biscuits and sugar-candy, and while the young folks, with few exceptions, were all as merry as possible, these mute sages were wrapped in profound meditation. Still looking on us with an air of dignified gravity and serious reflection, they never uttered a word, and a strange association of ideas formed in my mind some resemblance between them and the Roman senators, when Brennus came with hostile vengeance to destroy the city. But they had nothing of this kind to dread from us, as we wished rather to improve, than demolish their wretched capital.

After having finished our repast, we walked through the village, which we found to consist of about fifty huts, and one hundred and fifty inhabitants. The huts were much better built than those upon the island, and the roofs of many of them were shaped like the curved top of a waggon, while others extended in the form of a sharp ridge, increasing in breadth from the summit to the extremities on each side. A small enclosure in which there was a shed where the inhabitants used to take their meals, surrounded each of these huts, and the general effect of the whole was not uninteresting.

The solemn hour of night was now approaching, and leaving these poor villagers, we returned

to the camp, accompanied by our friend Shunghi, whose fidelity and attachment were sincere and devoted. We were also attended by the New Zealand sailor, who used to act as interpreter between us and his countrymen; and on our arrival, we found the warriors all seated on the ground, and the brother chiefs, George and Tip-pouie, in the midst of them. On our approach they instantly made room for us, and we were invited by George to place ourselves next to him, and some dressed potatoes were laid before us in a basket, which we were to partake of for our supper.

After eating a few of the potatoes, we entered into conversation with George, and anxious to learn from him all the particulars respecting the Boyd, we immediately commenced that melancholy subject.

After George had communicated to us all the particulars I have narrated, it was time to prepare for rest, and the warriors, stretching themselves on the ground, began to wrap their kakahows more closely about them. The scene now became awfully appalling. Night threw its gloomy shade over the ruthless murderers of our countrymen, while we, but two in number, remained perfectly defenceless in the midst of them; trusting only to the internal dictates of their hearts, for the privilege of existing a single instant. Yet reflecting on their disposition, which is never vengeful without sufficient cause, we felt no alarms for our safety; and though perhaps we may have subjected ourselves to the imputation of having unnecessarily exposed our lives in
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a perilous situation, we ourselves could see no danger in what we had done, and were prompted to it by far other motives than the vanity of adventurous enterprise. George, to whom I wish to render all the merit he deserves, however I may dislike his appearance and manner, was, I must say, particularly attentive to us, and wished to make us as comfortable as he possibly could. At his particular request, we laid ourselves down to sleep beside himself and his wife, Mr. Marsden being on one side, and I on the other. The ground was our bed, and we had no other covering than the clothes we wore; while stretched at full length under the broad canopy of heaven, we prepared for repose, and feared not to close our eyes in the very centre of these cannibals. They proved themselves worthy of such confidence, and in no instance did there appear the least disposition to take advantage of it. I slept tolerably well for some part of the night, and awaking at the dawn of day, a scene, the strangest that can be imagined, presented itself to my view. An immense number of human beings, men, women, and children, some half naked, and others loaded with fantastic finery, were all stretched about me in every direction; while the warriors, with their spears stuck in the ground, and their other weapons lying beside them, were either peeping out from under their kakahows, or shaking from off their dripping heads the heavy dew that had fallen in the night. Before sun-rise they were all up, and being invigorated and refreshed by that profound sleep which health is always sure to in-

vite, they rose with lively spirits to their desultory pursuits, and spent no time in lethargic slumbers.

Our next object was to proceed up the Cowa-cowa, to the part of the island where timber is found in the greatest abundance. It was therefore determined that Mr. Marsden and myself, together with Mr. Kendall and Mr. Hall, should set out without loss of time, in order to engage the natives to cut down as much timber as would be necessary for our purpose, and bring it by the usual conveyance to the vessel. We rowed to the head of the cove, which is about five miles from the place where the ship was lying at anchor, and is navigable to this distance for small vessels, and then came to some extensive flats, which though inundated with the tide, are always dry at low water, except the small channel through which the Cowa-cowa discharges itself into the cove. We now entered the open river, and rowing up along its smooth surface for about ten miles, the scenery on either side was bold and attractive. On whatever part we turned our eyes, a rich and romantic prospect invited our attention, and the river, taking a serpentine course, offered to our view at every new turning, a delightful variety of picturesque images. The tide, which rises in this river about four feet, might render it navigable to some distance for small craft, were the fallen timber cleared away, with which its channel is occasionally obstructed; a work, I should think, of no great labour, though of obvious utility in the event of a more regular intercourse with the island. If the accounts given
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by the natives can be credited, this romantic stream might be sailed up almost to its source; but this I very much doubt, though timber comes down in rafts from remote parts of the interior.

The principal chief in this part was Tekokee, to whom the district belonged, though he was in some degree tributary to Tarra. Landing on the 27th, at a small village not dissimilar to that in which Tarra resided, we met with two young men, who readily undertook to conduct us to the chief; and after walking over some flat and marshy ground for about a mile, we ascended a hill, on the summit of which he was seated, with several of his people around him, who all behaved with much apparent respect. Like Tarra, he received us with manifest symptoms of pleasure and good-will, though his manner possessed not those engaging demonstrations of native politeness, which in that venerable chief were so clearly discernible. His demeanour, however, was firm and convincing, and his ingenuous countenance, the very index of sincerity, afforded the strongest proofs that nature had never intended it to reveal the subtle machinations of a designing heart. Nothing was to be seen in it that could in the least degree indicate either fraud or deceit, but the opposite qualities of honesty and candour were plainly legible to every beholder. In his person he was more robust than any man I had yet seen, and all his limbs displayed a perfect correctness of symmetry, evincing at the same time the greatest capability of laborious exertion. His broad shoulders were covered with a large

skin of different coloured furs, and his tall figure, bold as it was stately, and perfect as it was commanding, might have supplied even to Phidias, had it existed in the days of that celebrated artist, a model not unworthy his inimitable powers. The chief, before we apprised him of the object of our visit, was already aware of it, having learned by some means that we wanted to buy timber of him; and addressing us on the subject, he told us there was *nuee nuee racow*, (plenty of wood,) and promised very willingly to shew us where we could be supplied.

The adjacent land was generally level, and the soil, with the exception of the marshy parts, most excellent.

Being accompanied by Tekokee, we re-entered the boat, and proceeded about two miles further up the river, till we came to where it divided itself into two branches; when getting out to enjoy an excursion on foot, we walked along the banks through a thick grove, which lined it on that side as far as the eye could reach. The under-wood was here in such quantities, and so entangled with the trees, that a passage through it would have been utterly impracticable, had not the natives taken the pains to clear a path, which ran along through various intricate windings. The timber in this grove was not large, nor could I observe any trees of the pine species; though there were several that appeared of an excellent quality, and many of them I thought would supply very good materials for turnery in particular.

Leaving this side of the river,
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we got into a canoe, and crossed over to the opposite bank, where we entered a noble forest of pines, growing to the height of eighty and a hundred feet, before they branched out, and all of them as straight as if they had been shaped by nature, for no other purpose than to shew her regularity. There were none of them more than six or seven feet in circumference, and being close to the river, could be floated down without any great trouble or expense.

We now engaged with Tekokee to set all his people to work at cutting down the trees, and giving him a large English axe, a present with which he was much gratified, we returned with him to his village, and thence repaired back again to the ship.

During this excursion, we were highly gratified with the friendly reception we met with from the natives, and with the general appearance of the country, which was every where remarkably beautiful. The land on the east side of the cove rising in bold perpendicular eminences, connected with each other, and stretching along the whole extent in that quarter, forms as it were a natural wall, or rather a continued chain of fertile hills, producing on their sides a great deal of brush-wood and small trees, with a rich covering of varied herbage. The prospect on the western side assumes a different appearance, but not less attractive; the land swelling up in curious hillocks, covered with shrubs and fern, or extending in level plains of the richest verdure, and offering to the eye some of the most delightful spots that can be imagined. It were impossible for

me to give my readers any thing like an accurate idea of the countless beautiful views that are to be met with in this island; and the part of it where we had now been, was not surpassed by any other in grandeur and variety. A noble river, smooth and transparent, winding for some distance its intricate course through a forest both gloomy and majestic; hills forming themselves into grand amphitheatres, or ascending, with impervious steepness, to a considerable elevation; valleys sinking down in the most picturesque recesses, and green fields opening on the view at the skirts of the forest;—these scenes, and many more, which I shall not here endeavour to enumerate, present themselves on either side of the Cowa-cowa.

Travels in the Interior of America, in the Years 1809, 1810, 1811; including a Description of Upper Louisiana, together with the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee, with the Illinois and Western Territories. By JOHN BRADBURY, F.L.S. London, &c.

Mr. Bradbury relates, that having arrived at St. Louis in Upper Louisiana, intending to make that town or neighbourhood his principal residence whilst exploring the interior of Upper Louisiana and the Illinois territory for the purpose of collecting subjects of natural history; and during the ensuing spring and summer, making frequent excursions for the purpose; he was informed on his return to St. Louis, that a party of men from Canada had

arrived with an intention of ascending the Missouri, on their way to the Pacific Ocean, by the same route that Lewis and Clarke had followed by descending the Columbia river. Becoming acquainted with the principals of this party, he accepted their invitation to accompany them; and in March 1811, they all proceeded on their journey.

One of the first of Mr. Bradbury's narratives relates to an Indian tribe, named the Osages, of whom the following account is given:—

“ I inquired of Dr. Murray concerning a practice which I had heard prevailed amongst the Osages, of rising before day to lament their dead. He informed me that such was really the custom, and that the loss of a horse or a dog was as powerful a stimulus to their lamentations as that of a relative or friend; and he assured me, that if I should be awake before day the following morning, I might certainly hear them. Accordingly, on the 9th, I heard before day that the howling had commenced; and the better to escape observation, I wrapped a blanket round me, tied a black handkerchief on my head, and fastened on my belt, in which I stuck my tomahawk, and then walked into the village. The doors of the lodges were closed, but in the greater part of them the women were crying and howling in a tone that seemed to indicate excessive grief. On the outside of the village I heard the men who Dr. Murray had informed me always go out of the lodges to lament. I soon came within twenty paces of one, and could see him dis-

tinctly, as it was moonlight: he also saw me and ceased, upon which I withdrew. I was more successful with another, whom I approached nearer unobserved. He rested his back against the stump of a tree, and continued for about twenty seconds to cry out in a loud and high tone of voice, when he suddenly lowered to a low muttering, mixed with sobs: in a few seconds he again raised to the former pitch. We breakfasted with the commandant, and afterwards walked out to view some improvements he had made in the fort. In our walk we observed what, on the first view appeared to be two squaws carrying a tub of water, suspended on a pole. Mr. Crooks desired me to notice them, which I did, and remarked that one of them had more the appearance of a man than of a woman. He assured me that it was a man, and that there were several others in the village, who, like the one we saw, were condemned for life to associate with the squaws, to wear the same dress, and do the same drudgery. I now learned, that when the Osages go to war, they keep a watchful eye over the young men who are then making their first essay in arms, and such as appear to possess the necessary qualifications are admitted to the rank of warriors, or, according to their own idiom, *brave men*. But if any exhibit evident proofs of cowardice, on the return of the party they are compelled to assume the dress and character of women, and their doom is fixed for life, as no opportunity is afterwards afforded them to retrieve their character. The men do not associate with

with them, nor are they suffered to marry, or have any intercourse with the women : they may be treated with the greatest indignity by any warrior, as they are not suffered to resent it."

The pigeons of the country afford a curious narration — thus described:—

"I proceeded to examine the neighbouring country, and soon discovered that pigeons were in the woods. I returned, and exchanged my rifle for a fowling piece, and in a few hours shot 271, when I desisted. I had an opportunity this day of observing the manner in which they feed ; it affords a most singular spectacle, and is also an example of the rigid discipline maintained by gregarious animals. This species of pigeon associates in prodigious flocks : one of these flocks, when on the ground, will cover an area of several acres in extent, and are so close to each other that the ground can scarcely be seen. This phalanx moves through the woods with considerable celerity, picking up as it passes along every thing that will serve for food. It is evident that the foremost ranks must be the most successful, and that nothing will remain for the hindermost. That all may have an equal chance, the instant that any rank becomes the last, they rise and flying over the whole flock, alight exactly ahead of the foremost. They succeed each other with so much rapidity, that there is a continued stream of them in the air ; and a side view of them exhibits the appearance of the segment of a large circle, moving through the woods. I observed that they ceased to look for food a con-

siderable time before they become the last rank, but strictly adhere to their regulations, and never rise until there are none behind them."

The account of a famous chief, named Blackbird, or Oiseau Noir, presents a remarkable example of a man doomed by nature to act the part of a tyrant.—

"This chief, called by the French Oiseau Noir, ruled over the Mahas with a sway the most despotic : he had managed in such a manner as to inspire them with the belief that he was possessed of supernatural powers ; in council no chief durst oppose him—in war it was death to disobey. It is related of him at St. Louis, that a trader from that town arrived at the Mahas with an assortment of Indian goods ; he applied to Blackbird for liberty to trade, who ordered that he should first bring all his goods into his lodge, and the order was obeyed ; Blackbird commanded that all the packages should be opened in his presence, and from them he selected what goods he thought proper, amounting to nearly the fourth part of the whole ; he caused them to be placed in a part of the lodge distinct from the rest, and addressed the trader to this effect—'Now, my son, the goods which I have chosen are mine, and those in your possession are your own. Don't cry, my son, my people shall trade with you for your goods *at your own price.*' He then spoke to his herald, who ascended to the top of the lodge, and commanded in the name of the chief, that the Mahas should bring all their beaver, bear, otter, muskrat, and other skins to his lodge, and not on any account

to dispute the terms of exchange with the trader, who declared on his return to St. Louis, that it was the most profitable voyage he had ever made. Mr. Tellier, a gentleman of respectability who resided near St. Louis, and who had been formerly Indian agent there, informed me that Blackbird obtained this influence over his nation by the means of arsenic, a quantity of that article having been sold to him by a trader, who instructed him in the use of it. If afterwards any of his nation dared to oppose him in his arbitrary measures, he prophesied their death within a certain period, and took good care that his predictions should be verified. He died about the time that Louisiana was added to the United States; having previously made choice of a cave for his sepulchre, on the top of a hill near the Missouri, about eighteen miles below the Maha village; by his order his body was placed on the back of his favourite horse, which was driven into the cave, the mouth closed up with stones, and a large heap was afterwards raised on the summit of the hill."

An interview with a tribe of Indians is the subject of the following narrative:—

"Before breakfast this morning we discovered two Indians on a bluff on the north-east side of the river: we stopped opposite to them to breakfast, during which they frequently harangued us in a loud tone of voice. After we had breakfasted, Mr. Hunt went over the river to speak to them, and took with him Dorion, the interpreter. We noticed, that when he landed, one of the Indians went away, and for a short time disappeared from

our sight, but immediately reappeared on horseback, and went at full speed over the bluffs. Mr. Hunt informed us on his return, that these Indians belonged to the Sioux nations; that three tribes were encamped about a league from us, and had 280 lodges. They were the Yangtons Ahnah, the Tetons Bois Brulé, and the Tetons Min-na-kine-azzo. The Indian informed Mr. Hunt that they had been waiting for us eleven days, with a decided intention of opposing our progress, as they would suffer no one to trade with the Ricaras, Mandans, and Minaterees, being at war with those nations. It is usual to reckon two warriors to each lodge, we therefore found that we had to oppose near six hundred savages, with the character of whom we were well acquainted; and it had also been stated by the Indian that they were in daily expectation of being joined by two other tribes, Tetons Okandandas and Tetons Sahone. We proceeded up the river, and passed along an island, which, for about half an hour, intercepted our view of the north-east side of the river. On reaching the upper point we had a view of the bluffs, and saw the Indians pouring down in great numbers, some on horseback, and others on foot. They soon took possession of a point a little above us, and ranged themselves along the bank of the river. By the help of our glasses we could perceive that they were all armed and painted for war. Their arms consisted chiefly of bows and arrows, but a few had short carbines: they were also provided with round shields. We had an ample sufficiency of arms for

for the whole party, which now consisted of sixty men; and besides our small arms, we had a swivel, and two howitzers. Any attempt to avoid the Indians would have been abortive, inasmuch as a boat, in ascending the Missouri, can only effect it by going along the edges of the river, it being wholly impossible to stem the middle current; and as the banks are in many places high and perpendicular, we must inevitably be in their power frequently, as they might several times in the course of a day shower a volley of arrows upon us, and retire unseen. Our alternative, therefore, was, as we supposed, either to fight them or return. The former was immediately decided on, and we landed nearly opposite to the main body. Our first care was to put all the arms in complete order: afterwards the swivel and the howitzers were loaded with powder only, and fired to impress them with an idea that we were well prepared. They were then heavily loaded, and with as many bullets as it was supposed they would bear, after which we crossed the river. When we arrived within about one hundred yards of them, the boats were stationed, and all seized their arms. The Indians now seemed to be in confusion, and when we rose up to fire, they spread their buffaloe robes before them, and moved them from side to side. Our interpreter called out, and desired us not to fire, as the action indicated, on their part, a wish to avoid an engagement, and to come to a parley. We accordingly desisted, and saw about fourteen of the chiefs separate themselves from the crowd who

were on the summit of the bank, and descend to the edge of the river, where they sat down on the sand, forming themselves into a portion of a circle, in the centre of which we could see preparations making to kindle a fire, evidently with a design to smoke the calumet with us, and signs were made, inviting us to land. Mr. Hunt requested that Messrs. Crooks, M'Kenzie, Miller, and M'Clellan, would attend him in his boat, and I accompanied Mr. M'Kenzie. The object was to consider whether it was advisable to place so much confidence in so ferocious and faithless a set, as to accept the invitation. It did not require much deliberation, as we found ourselves under the necessity of either fighting or treating with them; it was therefore determined to hazard the experiment of going ashore. The party who remained in the boats were ordered to continue in readiness to fire on the Indians instantly, in case of treachery, and Messrs. Hunt, M'Kenzie, Crooks, Miller, and M'Clellan, with the interpreter and myself, went ashore. We found the chiefs sitting where they had first placed themselves, as motionless as statues; and without any hesitation or delay, we sat down on the sand, in such a manner as to complete the circle. When we were all seated, the pipe was brought by an Indian, who seemed to act as priest on this occasion; he stepped within the circle, and lighted the pipe. The head was made of a red stone, known by mineralogists under the term of killas, and is often found to accompany copper ore; it is procured on the river St. Peters, one of the principal branches of
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the Mississippi. The stem of the pipe was at least six feet in length, and highly decorated with tufts of horse hair, dyed red. After the pipe was lighted, he held it up towards the sun, and afterwards pointed it towards the sky, in different directions. He then handed it to the great chief, who smoked a few whiffs, and taking the head of the pipe in his hand, commenced by applying the other end to the lips of Mr. Hunt, and afterwards did the same to every one in the circle. When this ceremony was ended, Mr. Hunt rose, and made a speech in French, translated as he proceeded into the Sioux language by Dorion. The purport of the speech was to state, that the object of our voyage up the Missouri was not to trade; that several of our brothers had gone to the great salt lake in the west, whom we had not seen for eleven moons. That we had come from the great salt lake in the east, on our way to see our brothers, for whom we had been *crying* ever since they left us; and our lives were now become so miserable for the want of our brothers, that we would rather die than not go to them, and would kill every man that should oppose our passage. That we had heard of their design to prevent our passage up the river, but we did not wish to believe it, as we were determined to persist, and were, as they might see, well prepared to effect our purpose; but as a proof of our pacific intentions, we had brought them a present of tobacco and corn. About fifteen earottes of tobacco, and as many bags of corn, were now brought from the boat, and laid in a heap

near the great chief, who then rose and commenced a speech, which was repeated in French by Dorion. He commenced by stating that they were at war with the Ricaras, Mandans, and Gros Ventres or Minaterees, and the injury it would be to them if these nations were furnished with arms and ammunition; but as they found we were only going to our brothers, they would not attempt to stop us. That he also had brothers, at a great distance northward, whom he had not seen for a great many moons, and for whom he also had been *crying*. He professed himself satisfied with our present, and advised us to encamp on the other side of the river, for fear his *young men* should be troublesome. When the speech was ended, we all rose, shook hands, and returned to the boats. During this conference, I had an opportunity of noticing these Indians, a great number of whom were assembled on the bank above us, and observed that they are in stature considerably below the Osages, Mahas, and Poncars, and much less robust. They are also much more deficient in clothing and ornaments, a considerable number being entirely naked, but all armed."

The return of a war party of Indians is related in the following manner:—

"It had been a custom with us to keep a guard round our camp during the night since our arrival at the Aricaras. Four of the party were stationed for this purpose until midnight, and were then relieved by four others, who remained on guard until morning. On the morning of the 10th, at day-

day-break, some Indians came to our camp from the village, amongst whom was my friend the young warrior. As I happened to be on guard, he came to me, and by signs invited me to go and breakfast with him. Whilst we were sitting together, he suddenly jumped up, and pointed to the bluffs, at the distance of three or four miles down the river. On looking, I observed a numerous crowd of Indians. He gave me to understand that it was a war party on their return, and immediately ran to the village. In a few minutes the tops of the lodges were crowded with Indians, who appeared much agitated. Soon after an Indian galloped past our camp, who I understand was a chief. In a few minutes afterwards parties began to come out of the village, on their way to meet the warriors, or rather to join them, as it is the custom for a war party to wait at a distance from the village when a victory has been gained, that their friends may join in the parade of a triumphal entry; and on such occasions all their finery and decorations are displayed: some time also is requisite to enable the warriors at home and their friends to paint themselves, so as to appear with proper eclat. During the time that elapsed before the arrival of the procession, I walked into the village, where an universal stillness prevailed. No business seemed to be going on, excepting the preparing of something for the warriors to eat on their return. The squaws were employed in that business in all the lodges into which I entered, and I noticed that not one of the

poor squaws seemed in the least solicitous about her own person: they are too insignificant to be thought an appendage to a triumph. It was nearly the middle of the day before the procession came in sight, when I went to meet it, in order that my view might be prolonged. A number of the old men and squaws were also moving down from the town, to meet them. At the head of the procession were four standard-bearers, followed by a band of warriors on foot; after which came a party on horseback: to these succeeded two of the principal chiefs, betwixt whom was a young warrior, who I understood had been severely wounded. Then came two other standard-bearers, who were succeeded by another band of foot and horse, which order was observed until the four bands of which the party consisted had passed. They were about 300 in number: each man carried a shield; a few were armed with guns, some with bows, and others with war clubs. They were painted in a manner that seemed as if they had studied to make themselves hideous. Many of them had the mark which indicates that they had drank the blood of an enemy. This mark is made by rubbing the hand all over with vermilion, and by laying it on the mouth, it leaves a complete impression on the face, which is designed to resemble and indicate a bloody hand. With every band some scalps were carried, elevated on long sticks; but it was easy to perceive, on a close examination, that the scalps had been divided, to increase the apparent number. The number of the enemy that were killed we supposed

supposed did not exceed seven or eight, and they had themselves lost two, so that this engagement had not been a very bloody one. As the body approached the town, the squaws and old men began to meet them, and excepting the lamentations of those whose relatives had been killed or wounded, the expressions of joy became general, but without disturbing in the least the order of the procession. I walked into the village, which assumed a busy air. On the entrance of the party the warriors were conducted to the different lodges, that they might refresh themselves, and the old men went about shaking hands with some, and seemingly bestowing praises on others, who had conducted themselves well in the battle."

Buffaloes.—“On my return to the boats, as the wind had in some degree abated, we proceeded, and had not gone more than five or six miles before we were surprised by a dull hollow sound, the cause of which we could not possibly imagine. It seemed to be one or two miles below us; but as our descent was very rapid, it increased every moment in loudness, and before we had proceeded far, our ears were able to catch some distinct tones, indicating the bellowing of buffaloes. When opposite to the place from whence it proceeded, we landed, ascended the bank, and entered a small skirting of trees and shrubs, that separated the river from an extensive plain. On gaining a view of it, such a scene opened to us as will fall to the lot of few travellers to witness. This plain was literally covered with buffaloes as far as we could see, and we soon dis-

covered that it consisted in part of females. The males were fighting in every direction, with a fury which I have never seen paralleled, each having singled out his antagonist. We judged that the number must have amounted to some thousands, and that there were many hundreds of these battles going on at the same time, some not eighty yards from us. It will be recollected that at this season the females would naturally admit the society of the males. From attentively observing some of the combats nearest to us, I am persuaded that our domestic bull would almost invariably be worsted in a contest with this animal, as he is inferior to him both in strength and ferocity. A shot was fired amongst them, which they seemed not to notice. Mr. Brackenridge joined me in preventing a volley being fired, as it would have been useless, and therefore wanton; for if we had killed one, I am certain the weight of his carcass in gold would not have bribed us to fetch him. I shall only observe farther, that the noise occasioned by the trampling and bellowing was far beyond description. In the evening, before we encamped, another immense herd made its appearance, running along the bluffs at full speed, and although at least a mile from us, we could distinctly hear the sound of their feet, which resembled distant thunder."

The Grand Saline. — “The Grand Saline is situated about two hundred and eighty miles south-west of Fort Osage, between two forks of a small branch of the Arkansas, one of which washes its southern extremity; and the other

other principal one, runs nearly parallel, within a mile of its opposite side. It is a hard level plain, of reddish coloured sand, and of an irregular or mixed figure. Its greatest length is from north-west to south-east, and its circumference full thirty miles. From the appearance of drift-wood that is scattered over, it would seem that the whole plain is at times inundated by the overflowing of the streams that pass near it. This plain is entirely covered in hot dry weather, from two to six inches deep, with a crust of beautiful clean white salt, of a quality rather superior to the imported blown salt: it bears a striking resemblance to a field of brilliant snow after a rain, with a light crust on its top. On a bright sunny morning, the appearance of this natural curiosity is highly picturesque: it possesses the quality of looming, or magnifying objects, and this in a very striking degree, making the small billets of wood appear as formidable as trees. Numbers of buffaloes were on the plain. The Saline is environed by a stripe of marshy prairie, with a few scattered trees, mostly of cotton wood; behind these is a range of sand hills, some of which are perfectly naked, others thinly clothed with verdure and dwarf plum bushes, not more than thirty inches in height, from which we procured abundance of the most delicious plums I ever tasted."

Earthquakes.—"As it required every effort of skill and exertion to pass through this channel in safety, and as the sun had set, I resolved to wait until the morning, and caused the boat to be moored to a small island, about 500 yards

above the entrance into the channel. After supper, we went to sleep as usual: about ten o'clock, and in the night I was awakened by a most tremendous noise, accompanied by an agitation of the boat so violent, that it appeared in danger of upsetting. Before I could quit the bed, or rather the skin, upon which I lay, the four men who slept in the other cabin rushed in and cried out in the greatest terror, '*O mon Dieu! Monsieur Bradbury, qu'est ce? qu'il y a?*' I passed them with some difficulty, and ran to the door of the cabin, where I could distinctly see the river as if agitated by a storm; and although the noise was inconceivably loud and terrific, I could distinctly hear the crash of falling trees, and the screaming of the wild fowl on the river, but found that the boat was still safe at her moorings. I was followed out by the men and the patron, still in accents of terror, inquiring what it was: I tried to calm them by saying, '*Restez vous tranquil, c'est un tremblement de terre,*' which they did not seem to understand.

"By the time we could get to our fire, which was on a large flag, in the stern of the boat, the shock had ceased; but immediately the perpendicular banks, both above and below us, began to fall into the river in such vast masses, as nearly to sink our boat by the swell they occasioned; and our patron, who seemed more terrified even than the men, began to cry out, '*O mon Dieu! nous perirons!*' I wished to consult with him as to what we could do to preserve ourselves and the boat, but could get no answer except '*O mon Dieu!*'

nous perirons! and *Allons à terre!* *Allons à terre!* As I found Mr. Bridge the only one who seemed to have retained any presence of mind, we consulted, and agreed to send two of the men with a candle up the bank, in order to examine if it had separated from the island, a circumstance that we suspected, from hearing the snapping of the limbs of some drift trees, which were deposited betwixt the margin of the river, and the summit of the bank. The men, on arriving at the edge of the river, cried out *Venez à terre! Venez à terre!* and told us there was a chasm formed already, so wide that it would be difficult to pass it, to attain the firm ground. I ordered them to go upon the island and make a fire, and desired Mr. Bridge and the patron to follow them; and as it now occurred to me that the preservation of the boat in a great measure depended on the depth of the river, I tried with a sounding pole, and to my great joy, found it did not exceed eight or ten feet.

“Immediately after the shock we noticed the time, and found it was near two o’clock. It was now nearly half past, and I determined to go ashore myself, after securing some papers and money, and was employed in taking them out of my trunks, when another shock came on, terrible indeed, but not equal to the first. Morin, our patron, called out from the island, *Monsieur Bradbury! sauvez vous, sauvez vous!* I went ashore, and found the chasm really frightful, as it was not less than four feet in width, and besides the bank had sunk at least two feet. I took the candle, and examined to determine its length, and concluded

that it could not be less than eighty yards; and where it terminated at each end, the banks had fallen into the river. I now saw clearly that our lives had been saved by having moored to a sloping bank. Before we had completed our fire, we had two more shocks, and they occurred during the whole night, at intervals of from six to ten minutes, but slight in comparison with the first and second. At four o’clock I took a candle, and again examined the bank, and found to my great satisfaction that no material alteration had taken place; I also found the boat safe, and secured my pocket compass. I had already noticed that the sound which was heard at the time of every shock, always preceded it at least a second, and that it always proceeded from the same point, and went off in an opposite direction. I now found that the shock came from a little northward of east, and proceeded to the westward. At daylight we had counted twenty-seven shocks, during our stay on the island, but still found the chasm so that it might be passed. The river was covered with foam and drift timber, and had risen considerably, but our boat was safe. Whilst we were waiting till the light became sufficient for us to embark, two canoes floated down the river, in one of which we could perceive some Indian corn and some clothes. We considered this as a melancholy proof that some of the boats we passed the preceding day had perished. Our conjectures were afterwards confirmed, as three had been overwhelmed, and all on board perished. When the day-light appeared

to be sufficient for us, I gave orders to embark, and we all went on board. Two men were in the act of loosening the fastenings, when a shock occurred nearly equal to the first in violence. The men ran up the bank, in order to save themselves on the island, but before they could get over the chasm, a tree fell close by them, and stopped their progress. The bank appeared to me to be moving rapidly into the river, and I called out to the men in the boat '*Coupez les cordes!*' on hearing this, the two men ran down the bank, loosened the cords, and jumped into the boat. We now found ourselves again on the river: the *Chenal du Diable* was in sight, and appeared absolutely impassable, from the quantity of trees and drift wood, that had lodged during the night against the planters fixed in the bottom of the river; and in addition to our difficulties, I noticed that the patron and the men appeared to be so terrified and confused, as to be almost incapable of action. I determined to stop, previous to passing the channel, in order that the men might have time to become more composed. I had the good fortune to discover a bank, rising with a gentle slope, where we again moored, and prepared to breakfast on the island. Whilst that was preparing, I walked down the island, in company with Morin, our patron, to view the channel, in order to ascertain the safest part, which we soon agreed upon. Whilst we were thus employed, we experienced a very severe shock, and found some difficulty in preserving ourselves from being thrown down; another occurred during

the time we were at breakfast, and a third as we were preparing to reimbark. In the last, Mr. Bridge, who was standing within the declivity of the bank, narrowly escaped being thrown into the river, as the sand continued to give way under his feet. As I observed that the men were still very much under the influence of terror, I desired Morin to give to each a glass of spirits, and reminded them that their safety depended on their exertions, and we pushed out into the river. The danger we had now to encounter was of a nature which they understood: the nearer we approached it, the more confidence they appeared to gain; and, indeed, all their strength, and all the skill of Morin, was necessary, as there was no direct channel through the trees, and we were several times under the necessity of changing our course in the space of a few seconds, and that instantaneously, not a moment being left for deliberation. Immediately after we had cleared all danger, the men dropped their oars, crossed themselves, and gave a shout, congratulating each other on our safety.

“ We continued on the river till eleven o'clock, when there was a violent shock, which seemed to affect us as sensibly as if we had been on land. The trees on both sides of the river were most violently agitated, and the banks fell in, in several places, within our view, carrying with them innumerable trees, the crash of which falling into the river, mixed with the terrible sound attending the shock, and the screaming of the geese, and other wild-fowl, produced an idea that all nature was in

in a state of dissolution. During the shock, the river had been much agitated, and the men became anxious to go ashore: my opinion was, that we were much more safe on the river; but finding that they laid down their oars, and seemed determined to quit the boat for the present, we looked out for a part of the river where we might moor it in security, and having found one, we stopped during the remainder of the day.

“At three o’clock, another canoe passed us adrift on the river. We did not experience any more shocks until the morning of the 17th, when two occurred; one about five, and the other about seven o’clock. We continued our voyage, and about twelve this day had a severe shock, of very long duration. About four o’clock came in sight of a log-house, a little above the Lower Chickasaw bluffs. More than twenty people came out as soon as they discovered us, and when within hearing, earnestly entreated us to come ashore. I found them almost distracted with fear, and that they were composed of several families, who had collected in order that they might pray together. On entering the house, I saw a bible lying open on the table. They informed me that the greatest part of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood had fled to the hills, on the opposite side of the river, for safety; and that during the shock, about sun-rise on the 16th, a chasm had opened on the sand bar opposite the bluffs below, and on closing again, had thrown the water to the height of a tall tree. They also affirmed that the earth opened in several places back from the

river. One of the men, who appeared to be considered as possessing more knowledge than the rest, entered into an explanation of the cause, and attributed it to the comet that had appeared a few months before, which he described as having two horns, over one of which the earth had rolled, and was now lodged betwixt them: that the shocks were occasioned by the attempts made by the earth to surmount the other horn. If this should be accomplished, all would be well, if otherwise, inevitable destruction to the world would follow. Finding him confident in his hypothesis, and myself unable to refute it, I did not dispute the point, and we went on about a mile further. Only one shock occurred this night, at half past seven o’clock. On the morning of the 18th, two shocks, one betwixt three and four o’clock, and the other at six. At noon, a violent one, of very long duration, which threw a great number of trees into the river within our view. In the evening, two slight shocks, one at six, the other at nine o’clock.

“19th. We arrived at the mouth of the river St. Francis, and had only one shock, which happened at eleven at night.

“20th. Detained by fog, and experienced only two shocks, one at five, the other at seven in the evening.

“21st. Awakened by a shock at half-past four o’clock: this was the last, and not very violent, but lasted for nearly a minute.”

Description of the Missouri territory.—“It is necessary to observe, that Upper Louisiana was settled from Canada, not by way of
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of Orleans, but by proceeding along the Lakes, and descending the Illinois or Miami rivers, and may be considered as a distinct colony, the history of which, so far as may be gathered from themselves, does not present those horrid examples of treachery and injustice to the Indians, which will for ever disgrace the memory of those who first formed the lower settlement. The consequence has been, that although individual acts of injustice or aggression, committed against the Indians, have met with due and appropriate punishment, yet no general act has been committed of a nature so atrocious as to provoke general extermination; a thing extremely easy to have been effected by the Indians in the early part of the settlement, as there were several powerful tribes in their vicinity. The inhabitants of Kaskaskias say that it was coeval with Philadelphia, and the common term for Vincennes, (Old Post) shows that it must have been one of the first settlements, if not the first. Both these are on the east side of the Mississippi, as also are Cahokia and the small settlement of Prairie du Roche. Besides these four, on the west side, there were five villages originally settled, each of which, besides its proper name, has a nick-name given to it. St. Genevieve is *Misère*; Carondolet, *Vuide Poche*; St. Louis, *Pain Court*; St. Ferdinand, *Florissante*; and St. Charles, *Petit Cote*. These nine villages were scattered some more than 100 miles distant from each other, and no two of them were so situated as to be capable of rendering mutual aid, in case of attack from the Indians, and for

more than sixty years five of them existed, isolated in a wilderness, 600 miles at least from any other white settlers.

The villages were regularly laid out in squares of 300 feet on each side, the houses standing towards the streets, and the interior of the area composed of gardens and orchards. To each of these villages was appropriated a large space of ground, and fenced in the form of a parallelogram. In this space allotments are laid out, correspondent in number and relative magnitude with the town lots. These allotments extend the whole length of the field; but their magnitude is determined by the breadth, which is marked on one of the fences, being once, or once and a half, or twice, &c. the length of the side of a square arpent of land. In the common field belonging to Carondolet, these narrow stripes are more than a mile and a half in length. Besides the appropriation of land for cultivation, an extensive tract was laid out for each town as a forest, or demesne, from which each individual cuts what wood he thinks proper. All these appropriations have been ratified by the commissioners appointed by the government of the United States, since the cession of Louisiana, to examine into claims. The French, who are the descendants of the first settlers, are very indolent, and so much attached to the manners of their ancestors, and even their practices in husbandry, that although they see their American neighbours, by the application of improved implements and methods, able to cultivate double the quantity of ground in the same time, nothing can induce them to abandon

abandon their old practices : and if any one attempts to reason with them on the subject, their constant reply is, 'As it was good enough for our forefathers, it is good enough for us ;' whence it appears that even veneration for ancestry may become an evil. They cultivate maize, wheat, oats, barley, beans, (*phaseolus*) pumpkins, water and musk melons, and tobacco and cotton for their own use. Apples and peaches are very fine ; the former abundant, and do not require to be engrafted. They pay great attention to gardening, and have a good assortment of roots and vegetables. Notwithstanding their want of industry, there is an appearance of comfort and independence in their villages, as, from the richness of the soil, and fineness of the climate, the labours attendant on agriculture, and attention necessary to their cattle, are comparatively trivial. They have abundance of horses, cows, and hogs, all which run at large on the prairies, as they have no inclosures but for the purpose of agriculture. They mow a little grass on the prairie, which they make into hay, and give it to their horses and cattle when the ground is covered with snow : at other times they leave them to provide for themselves. The hogs sustain themselves on strawberries, hazle nuts, hickory nuts, acorns, and roots ; and must be occasionally sought for in the woods, to prevent them from becoming entirely wild. On these occasions, the proprietor fills his saddle bags with the ears of Indian corn, with which he mounts his horse, generally with his rifle on his shoulder. If he finds them

within three or four miles of his house, he thinks himself fortunate ; but it sometimes happens that he is two days in 'hunting them up,' as they term it. When he finds them, he throws down an ear of corn, which they devour, and he rides gently towards home, with the whole herd screaming after him. When they are almost inclined to give up the chase, he throws down another ear, which practice he continues until he brings them into his yard, where he shuts them up, and feeds them. Here they remain until the morning when he again feeds them, marks the young pigs, sets them at liberty, and probably does not see them again for a fortnight or three weeks. That each planter may identify his own hogs, he marks them in the ear, and in each township an office is established, in which these marks are registered ; they are either holes or slits, or both, differently arranged ; so that no two marks are alike ; and it is against the laws of the territory to expose the carcase of a hog for sale without having the ears upon it.

“ St. Louis, the capital of this territory, is very pleasantly situated on the Mississippi, about eighteen miles below the mouth of the Missouri, in latitude $38^{\circ} 5'$ and longitude $89^{\circ} 55'$ W. It has a decided advantage over any of the other towns, on account of its being situated on a rock, but little elevated above the high floods of the river, and immediately on its border. Such situations are very rare, as the Mississippi is almost universally bounded either by high perpendicular rocks or loose alluvial soil, the latter of which is in continual

continual danger of being washed away by the annual floods, to such an extent, that a whole plantation, situated on the border of the river, has been known to have been swept away during one flood. Fort Chartres, erected at a vast expense by the French government on the border of the river, prior to the cession of Louisiana in 1763, is now almost entirely swept away. The fur trade of the Mississippi and the Missouri, together with that of the tributary streams, almost wholly centers in this town; and after the return of Messrs. Lewis and Clarke from the Pacific Ocean, a fur company was formed for the purpose of trading with the nations on the head waters of the Missouri, which, from a variety of untoward events, but principally from the hostile and bloody disposition of the Indians, has miscarried."

James's Journal of a Tour in Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Poland; during the Years 1813 and 1814.

Early in the course of this month the severity of the cold began to be felt, and the natives shrouded themselves in their first surtouts for the winter. There are certain pleasures, notwithstanding, that accompany this season. The preceding week had been productive of a vast quantity of snow; and fortunately (being the necessary conditions for good trainage) it had fallen on a ground already hardened by the frost. The atmosphere, disburdened of its load, immediately clears up, giving place to a settled state of

weather. The sledges are brought out, the horses harnessed, and all the world, before sluggish and inactive, at once is set in motion. Figures innumerable are seen gliding over the white carpet of snow, with a pace so quick and yet so silent, that it appears to a stranger as an exhibition of enchantment. The cart of the peasant, the carriage of the noble, shoot by as swift as lightning: you hear nothing but the safety bell, which tinkles in your ear as it passes, and declines in the distance, before you have yet well recognized its sound. The gladdening ray of a bright sun, and a sky perpetually serene, lend so pleasing a variety of colours to the view as to render a picture of Stockholm, in the month of November, one of the liveliest prospects in nature.

The gay season now commences, as the chief families arrive from the country to winter in the metropolis. Early hours are still preserved here in spite of French fashions, and a dinner at two o'clock, or a profuse supper at ten, are the usual offers of Swedish hospitality: but neither are the private parties frequent, or yet the public amusements very numerous. An Italian opera-house, and a small Swedish theatre, alone, were open during our stay: for the company of French comedians, who had lately attracted so much notice, had been dismissed, by order of the Crown Prince. There were, however, several clubs and institutions. The first of these, the Society, or Selskapet, was regulated on a plan similar to that of a club in London. The others were lodges, that held assemblies and

and balls at stated times; the Amaranth, the Innocence, the Narcissus, &c. The Amaranth is by far the most fashionable, and the best attended, and includes several associated establishments in the larger towns of Sweden. There was formerly an order of knighthood, instituted by Queen Christina, under this title, to perpetuate the memory of her lover, Pontus de la Gardie; but having afterwards fallen into disuse, it was nominally revived in this spurious shape about 70 years since by a private association.

The ceremonies of inauguration are conducted with all the due forms of chivalry. On the ballot for a new member being declared, the elect is introduced by a lady, and a procession arrayed to the strains of solemn music: when this is concluded, she decorates him with the ribbon and insignia of the Amaranth, and he receives on his shoulder the sword of the president, who is usually one of the first officers of the state. The grand cordons, and grand crosses and collars, are distributed in profusion—mock honours, that give, nevertheless, a strikingly gay air to the whole assembly. In the midst (not the least conspicuous) shone the Marechalls of a late noble marriage, wearing, in similar knightly guise, the garters of the bride; which, according to custom, are the prize of those who light the bridegroom to his chamber on the nuptial night. But ceremonious decorations, so universal on the continent in general, are objects of a nature particularly captivating to the ostentatious mind of a Swede. At a meeting even of this description the full

dress is ordinarily worn by all that are entitled to it; and exceptions can only be few, when the members of every rank and profession, from the highest civil officers of the crown to the Royal Academy of artists, have their distinctive and appropriate uniform. The citizens, too, have their regular gala habit; a Spanish cloak and hose of black, being the same in colour, and not differing much in shape from the common dress of the court. It is but fair to add that, among other accomplishments, the young of both sexes all dance extremely well, and in a style inferior perhaps only to the beau monde of Paris.

Among the lower classes the first indication of the approach of winter gives them the hint to lay up their stock of eatables for the frozen market; the provisions lasting, in a congealed state, unhurt during the whole season. They next pile their stocks of wood for firing, and light up the stove of their wooden cabin, that is never suffered to grow cool, or even to undergo ventilation, from this day till the arrival of the genial month of May.

One of the most pleasing sights of this time was the return of the seamen, discharged for the winter, to their bostellars, or apportionments of land. We saw a division of them on their march, carrying their families, with all their little store, in light Swedish waggons from the port to their homes: here they were housed, each with his hut and plot of ground, in separate ranges, according to the gradation of their respective ranks; the habitation of the commander of

of the ship's company being placed in the centre of the permanent encampment. It is a mode of provision peculiar, I believe, to Sweden; and was made, during a former reign, by the application of certain lands of the crown to this purpose. The advantages of this plan of maintenance are extended to the army as well as the navy, for the regiments of provincial militia are all supported in the same way; and these (if we except the artillery, and a few regiments of guards), form, in fact, the only standing force of the country.

Jan. 25.—At this time the cold was excessive, generally below 20° , and on the 21st day of this month the mercury stood at 33° of Celsius's scale below freezing point, or 28° below zero of Fahrenheit. It is impossible to recount all the horrors of such a season: no example had occurred during the last sixty years of one so severe. The peasants attending the market came with their faces, arms, and legs, frozen: the soldiers on guard, though relieved every hour, were often taken up in the same condition; and one, it was said, had been found dead at his post. Besides the miserable cases of persons frostbitten that daily thronged the hospitals, several deaths took place among those who were out of the way of immediate assistance. A poor woman, to mention one instance, being ignorant of the unusual inclemency of this morning, had gone early to her usual occupation of washing on the river side; scarce half an hour elapsed before we saw her on her return, borne

under our windows to her home a lifeless corpse.

It will be well to observe, that the extraordinary increase of cold is not directly made known by symptoms such as might be expected; no external sensation will enable any person to form an estimate of its comparative rigour. The action of a temperature such as the above is not like the nipping of a frost in England, but a general extension of its baneful influence is felt over the whole body, its access being so gradual that, for several minutes after leaving a warm room, the air seems to make little or no impression: an attempt, however, to endure it for even a quarter of an hour, unless extraordinarily well wrapped up in fur or wadded clothing, would be attended with the highest degree of danger. Exercise alone is totally unable to keep up the necessary vital warmth: the linen becoming moist is instantly converted to a covering of ice, and the animal heat escapes as fast as it is excited.

Even with the adoption of every possible precaution, very injurious effects will sometimes manifest themselves. A soreness in breathing, an oppressive headach, a want of sense in the extremities, and a stiffness in the thighs, are the first symptoms which give the stranger warning to seek again the timely shelter of his house.

Frequently did we remark the dead white patch on the cheek, the ears, or the noses of the lower class, who were moderately provided in point of clothing; and to guard against such contingencies, it was usual to see many of

the well furred gentry with the upper part of their faces in masks, with coverings fitted to their ears, and applying their fingers with incessant care to every part of their visages in succession: or sometimes, which is the best preservative for travelling, their skins, where exposed, were greased with oil. Salutations in the street at this period are short; scarce a word or an answer; and the greatest assemblage of people (for the groups are seldom numerous) can be compared only to a meeting at a deaf and dumb asylum. A north-east wind, during such weather as this, is a chill blast of death that exceeds in horror any other curse of heaven.

It is not without reason that so much care is used to prevent the face from being taken by the frost, for as the skin is destroyed by its action, a blemish like the sore of a burn serves to recal the memory of the accident during the whole of the succeeding summer. As to the general effects of the constant cold on the body, I cannot help remarking that the women of all classes both here, and as I afterwards observed in Russia, seemed to be much less affected than the men. It may be that they seldom stay out of doors for so great a length of time as the other sex, but it is certainly true that the influence of the climate on the body varies much in degree upon different habits; but I think I may be warranted in saying, that it is most commonly manifested in a determination of blood to the head, and a tendency to lethargy, but this is by no means universal.

The extreme accumulation of

animal electricity in the frame is also remarkable; the natural moisture necessary to carry it off not having been produced during the day, it is retained in great quantities, which are visibly discharged at night on undressing in a warm room.

The power of the constitution to bear against cold, contrary to vulgar ideas, is weakened gradually more and more by endurance; the frame is enervated, in artificial life at least, and a stranger, instead of growing more hardy and secure, braves the sharpness of the first winter with much greater success than he can attempt a second year. In the course of the first spring, indeed, after his arrival, he feels infinitely more sensible of its injury than he had been of a similar temperature in the preceding autumn.

Several striking natural phenomena attend this season: symptoms of a degree of rigour of which an Englishman has little or no conception. The smoke seems to ascend from the chimney-tops a dense compact cloud, and the atmosphere itself, though not obscure, assumes a heavy aspect, more particularly made observable at the rising and setting of the sun. While no sooner has the thermometer fallen to 20° —(Celsius), or 4° below the zero of Fahrenheit's scale, than the cellars of the houses emit a strong vapour to the streets; and all the streams of water, whose rapidity is sufficient to check congelation, give out in similar way a powerful steam during day and night from their surface. It was an extraordinary spectacle to see the bridge at Stockholm, through which

which the waters of the Mælar were discharged, constantly enveloped during the month in a thick exhalation, as if rising from boiling water.

This effect admits of an easy explanation : a perpetual supply of water takes place from under the ice, great part of which (since the freezing of its surface) has reassumed a higher degree of temperature from the warmth of the earth ; the interchange of particles occurring in the steam, because they are in this way possessed of a different quantity of heat, prevents the whole from being cooled down to the point necessary for congelation : the declivity continually keeps up the effect ; and so great a difference existing between the temperature of the air and that of the water will occasion steam to be given out from its surface at any point of the thermometer.

The wolves at this time, severely pressed by famine, lost their usual dread of man, and prowled fearlessly on the roads, following the track of the carriages, to a great distance ; in one or two instances indeed they were known to venture, during the night, into the villages in search of prey.

All communication with England, through the port of Gottenburgh, was entirely cut off ; the packet-boat came in sight, but was inaccessible from the regions of broken ice that encircled the coast : an hundred guineas were offered to any one that would undertake the perilous office of fetching the mails ashore ; yet even this temptation was held out in vain, and after waiting more than a fortnight the vessel returned to Harwich.

On setting foot in the Aland islands we passed the frontier of the Russian empire, for the line of their coast was settled as the boundary by the treaty of 1809 : it is singular, that notwithstanding their vicinity to Stockholm, so dangerous in case of a rupture, the Swedish government has not reclaimed these important posts, for there was a time when Russia could not have refused to cede them.

The island scenery appeared, as we journeyed, even at this time, beautiful ; the dark lush of the fir formed a strong contrast with the silvery fleeces of snow that roofed the forest, and the whole seemed to have assumed a new charm in this livery of winter. Our road was an undeviating line from place to place, no obstacle presented itself ; we passed over the fields, through the woods, across the ice ; hill and dale, land and water, were all alike : sometimes we traversed the rocky channel of a deep-bedded river, at other times wandered among the inlets of a lake, at others again steered our way between the islands over the open sea. The path was traced out on shore by large poles headed with straw, over the ice by boughs of trees, stationed at intervals, drawing a long thread over its surface that in some places reached to the very edge of the horizon ; we were skirted, indeed, by one of these hedges in our passage across the Delet, for the distance of more than twenty English miles.

The burden of providing these necessary marks is a duty that falls upon the inhabitants of the several parishes respectively ; notice is given at the church as soon as the ice may be reckoned secure, and

certain distances are allotted to the share of each individual. Without such an arrangement all communication would be entirely at an end, not only during the long winter nights, but every time that the snow was falling, or that a mist should arise to intercept the sight.

The cottages of the islanders were rough-hewn log-houses, and they were themselves people apparently of such simple manners and habits, as their secluded situation and scanty number might lead one to expect: each rustic householder was provided with the tools and implements of a dozen necessary arts or professions, performing for himself with equal address the duties of carpenter, shoemaker, tailor, fisherman, baker, miller, &c. So little was the division of labour studied, or the appropriation of means, that we observed the corn-mills almost equalled in number the houses of the villages; they were cheap and of simple form, acting by sails constructed of wooden planks, and their mill-stones shaped like the *querne* or old Celtic machine for grinding with the hand.

Luxuries, such as ochre paint for their cabins, or coats of woollen cloth, where sheep-skins would suffice, were not common. Caps of the most ordinary fur served as covering for their heads; and for their feet the want of shoes was supplied by a mis-shapen bag of dried seal-skin: the harness of their horses consisted of nothing more than a plain collar attached to the shafts of the cart or sledge; the horse's neck was thrust in, and he had nothing to do but proceed; the contrivance, it must be added, answers all the purposes

of draught, because neither here nor in Sweden is the animal trained to resist the weight of the carriage on a descent, however steep it may be.

Very little grain is produced; the chief dependance of the people is placed on the purchases they are enabled to make at Stockholm by the sale of their wood. For our own subsistence, it was absolutely necessary to carry with us our provisions; coffee being the only article of luxury which they had hoarded up for the use of a chance traveller. We cut off our meat and bread, as occasion required, from our store with a cleaver or hatchet, and having been dressed at Stockholm before we set out, the beef steaks, &c. were unfrozen by the application of cold water, then placed for a few minutes in the stove-oven, and served up to table as if fresh from the hand of the cook. Our wine and brandy underwent a partial decomposition, and the watery particles were converted to a core of ice; nevertheless, after what we had before endured, the weather could not now be called severe, except during a few hours of the night, and these accidents were regarded but as so many agreeable novelties that relieved the weariness of our journey.

Four days were spent in our passage, when we once more set our feet on the continent, and after a short stage arrived at Abo, the great university of Finland.

KIEV.—Amidst the toils of a long journey, oppressed by the constant heat of the climate, and wearied with the restless travelling of many days and nights, there

there are yet some few moments when the local interest of a particular spot, heightened perhaps by the accidental glow of sunset, or other adventitious circumstances, has power to excite a sentiment of ecstasy that amply compensates all the privations and inconveniences one had undergone. The imagination, which riots to satiety on the battleground, or dwells with rapture on proud memorials of ancient art, may yet feel a quiet enjoyment in the contemplation of a scene which appears to lull in harmonious repose all the higher feelings of our nature. Such was the delight with which we closed our journey on the evening of the 19th of July. The Dnieper rolled at our feet, a smooth majestic river, of more than a verst in breadth; on its banks was a caravan of Tartars and Russians, listening to the simple notes of the balalaika; above our heads rose a long range of hills encircled by a rich foliage of trees, and crowned with the gilt domes of the sacred city.

Having waited some time while the horses and carts, near twenty in number, were placed aboard, we at length crossed the ferry, and toiled up the steep ascent, over a road as usual covered with planks. When arrived at the summit, a new scene presented itself: the cupolas that before were but as spots in the view, faced us with a blaze of gold, and a thousand gay colours shining around us dazzled the eye: if we looked to the country below, one unvaried plain appeared of immeasurable extent, and covered with a thick forest, through the middle of which the Dnieper, now dwindled to a

streamlet, was seen winding its silvery path into the horizon: it was a land seemingly untouched by man, and affording a prospect as wild in its character as any that the most uncivilised tracts of America could furnish.

Our first duty on the morning after our arrival, in the true spirit of pilgrimage, was to pay a visit to the catacombs. Upon proper application being made at the fortress called Perchask, within which the monastery is situated, we were admitted; and received infinite amusement from all we saw. The entrance was ornamented with pictures, that, like those used for country shows in England, were illustrative of the exhibition in the interior; around stood a miserable looking crowd, the purchasers and venders of crosses, relics, and various other articles of superstition: the walls of the court within too were covered with huge religious paintings; and numberless pilgrims, of both sexes, were assembled in groups, reading, admiring, bowing, praying. The stories were chiefly selected from the legendary tales of the lives of the saints; on one side was represented the virgin Theodosia, accompanied at each stage of her life (a continued series of temptation) by two guardian angels, and three or four ministers of darkness; the devils always defeated, the angels ever triumphant; and in the last painting she was represented as having surmounted all her difficulties, and arrived in heaven. The artist's imagination, however, has somewhat failed, and seems not quite to have seized, on this occasion, the true notion of the sublime, or the beautiful; but

but we should recollect that, in the Russian vocabulary, the terms beautiful, red, and coloured, are all three represented by the same word, so that a confusion of ideas might easily occur.

On another side an old miser is seen on his death-bed: the company surrounding him are, as before, angels and devils; the latter are very urgent to seize upon his parting soul, but prevented by the former, who claim him to themselves, because, forsooth, he had bequeathed a large sum by will to the monastery. The devils, thus disappointed, peruse the will and codicil with much earnestness and apparent chagrin. The moral of the tale needs no explanation.

The profound respect and awe impressed on the countenance of every one we met lent an air of solemnity even to their ludicrous superstitions; and a stranger almost felt inclined to chide himself for making a visit of mere curiosity. Our meditations, however, on this singular spectacle were interrupted by our guide arriving to inform us the priest was waiting to conduct us to the relics. We descended a long staircase *en ramp*, to the mouth of the sacred catacomb, being formed into a regular procession, and each bare-headed, carrying a lighted taper in his hand. It was a labyrinth mined in the solid rock, consisting of walks, chambers, branches, &c., ascending and descending for the distance of several hundred yards; the passage about six feet wide, and coved at the top; its sides neatly plastered and stained with a black wash; the flooring laid with iron plates about a foot square. The remains of seventy-

three saints, or primitive Christians of Russia, the objects of veneration, were deposited in semi-circular niches that occurred at intervals on the passage. The bodies were wrapped round and bandaged up with swathings of silk after the fashion of mummies, though no part, not even the face, was left visible; what was within I know not; but they were scattered over with pieces of money, the offerings of the devotees. The coffins, which were always left open, were of an oblong square figure, decreasing in breadth from the head downwards, adorned on the interior with flowers of gold painted on a red ground. These personages were the same who once found an asylum here while alive, at a day when the unsettled nature of the times rendered them liable to perpetual persecutions abroad.

St. Anthony is the chief and patron saint: we were first shewn his oratory, and the cell in which he dwelt, say they, forty years, which, in memory of the holy man, the monks are constrained to visit at least twice every day. Next we proceeded in regular order to the shrines of St. Precop, St. Polycarp, St. Theodore, St. Luke (the Russian), and St. Nicholas, the last of whom having died at the distance of 3000 versts, was wafted hither by the angels in one hour: there was also a Russian St. Mark, who, to outdo all other acts of abstemiousness, never drank even of pure water oftener than once each day, and then only the contents of a small cruse made in the shape of a cross, containing about a gill in quantity; and a certain St. John who

who was pointed out, being buried up to his shoulders in earth; a penance which he imposed upon himself for forty days, when he expired. Here we halted, and the priest, placing the saint's cap on our head, gave us (for it was the custom of the place) a short blessing. The only other persons whose good works entitled them to look for repose here were the twelve men of Constantinople who excavated this subterraneous retreat, about 800 years ago: their bodies were seen collected together in one chamber, and were the last of the series that were shewn us.

On our return to the realms of day, we heard the chant of mass sounding from the church of the monastery, and thither we instantly repaired. The people whom we found assembled completely filled every part of the area: it was a herd of pilgrims, habited in all the various costumes of the southern provinces of the empire, some of them being said to have made a journey on foot of fifteen hundred versts, in order to discharge their vows at Kiev: and indeed their lank worn looks and tattered garments seemed, in many instances, to bespeak the toilsomeness of their undertaking. While their devotions detain them here, they are for the most part obliged to lie out at night, being destitute of money to pay for lodging, and by day only perhaps once receive refreshment, at the gratuitous repast which is provided by the Emperor in the refectory of the monastery. But the enthusiasm, devotion, and superstition of a Russian is easily able to surmount all these difficulties; and there is scarce a person in the

south, either of those who have sins to expiate, or of those whose quiet and holy life requires some notable act to grace its monotonous career, but imposes on himself, at one time or other, the task of performing this burdensome act of over-zealous piety. The ground plan of this building was the same, as to distribution, which seems commonly to have prevailed in all the older Russian churches; a Greek cross divided by four square pillars in the centre, with a vestibule or parvis, one arch in breadth, advanced in front; the rood was, according to custom, covered with three several ranges of pictures of saints, in compartments of rich gilt carved work, profusely interspersed with pearls, lapis lazuli, turquoises, enamel, &c. and exceeding, in gaudy costliness, whatever we had before seen displayed.

From hence we visited the churches of St. Sophie, and of the miraculous St. Avare in old Kiev, where ends the ordinary course of pilgrimage.

The former is the oldest church in the Russian dominions, and though not, as is said, built strictly after the model of the famous church of the same name at Constantinople, yet was, no doubt, the work of architects who came from thence; and bears on the interior many traces of Byzantine architecture. It is, however, almost a singular instance of that style; while the fashions and taste of those oriental nations, whose character is so strongly imprinted in the lineaments of the Russian visage, are easily recognised in the more durable monuments of architecture.

The

The Gostinnoi dvor, or square market-place, which we see in every town, constructed with double arcades, one above the other, as in an eastern bazar; the thick baluster-shaped column, the pagoda fashion of the old steeples, the façades adorned with painted and glazed tiles, the bulging form of the cupola, and its situation in the centre of the building, surrounded by four smaller ones, all peculiarities common throughout the Mohammedan countries of the east, will sufficiently prove from what quarter this people must have drawn its ideas of architecture.

The trade of Kiev, though it has attracted a few settlers from Germany, is extremely dull; it consists chiefly in exportation of corn and wood to the south, for which salt or money is received in exchange. But a very considerable business of transit had been carried on, through this place, during the last year or two. The articles of English manufacture, or the produce of our colonies, which the French prevented from being introduced by more direct means, found their way into the interior of the continent, by the circuitous route of Riga or Petersburg, Moscow, and the south of Poland. Some parts of Austria and Germany were latterly supplied in this way; and the quantity of goods was so great, that a merchant, who had considerable dealings in this line, told me he had sometimes forwarded three or four hundred carts in a single day.

Expense of carriage, as was before remarked, is not very heavy; and these articles, when in

large quantities, were forwarded under contract for three roubles and a half, or four roubles, each poud, (36 lb. English,) from Moscow to Kiev. As this distance is about 750 versts, or 500 English miles, the rate may be considered as something lower, in nominal value, than the average amount of the price of water carriage in England.

The necessities of life were much cheaper here than in any other town of Russia which had fallen within our route; though the inhabitants of Kiev complained that a great augmentation of prices in general had taken place during the visit of the Empress Catherine, and that they never afterwards sunk to their former value.

The town has become, within a few years, a place of greater resort than formerly; for the fair, which used to be held at Dubno, has been transferred hither by the Emperor's command. It is to this the Polish nobles, and indeed all the people of the country around, meet for the sake of transacting business, and making leases or transfers of land, while at the same time the merchants attend with stores of provision for sale, which are purchased for the baronial household in the wholesale way; and the concourse is immense. At present very little company was to be seen except some Greek merchants, who seemed the chief beaux of the place, and displayed themselves every evening with their ladies in the gardens of the governor.

The resident population of Kiev, including its university, is supposed to be about 20,000; they inhabit

inhabit, however, three distinct towns; the Perchask fortress with its adjoining streets, standing upon the summit of a hill on the east; Old Kiev, with its Polish fortifications, lying to the west; and below, the Podolsk quarter; which last is in a dilapidated state, having suffered a dreadful conflagration about four years ago. Many houses had been renewed, but it contains nothing very striking, except the remains of some old Greek convents, and buildings of that nature. On ascending the hill from hence, the road passes near the spring where St. Vladimir baptised the first Russian converts: the place is held sacred, and a column bearing a cross is erected over it to commemorate the pious act, as well as to record the former importance of Kiev as the seat of sovereignty.

A brief View of the Chinese Drama, and of their Theatrical Exhibitions. Prefixed to a Translation of a Chinese Drama, entitled "An Heir in his Old Age."

Among the many interesting and valuable communications, for which Europe is indebted to the Jesuits and the other less enlightened and more prejudiced orders of the Catholic missionaries, who established themselves in China more than two centuries ago, very little is to be found respecting the taste of that extraordinary nation for lyric poetry, or theatrical exhibitions; and from the infrequency of European visitors, we are left almost wholly in the dark with regard to the nature of this kind of composition, as well as of

the actual state of the drama, and indeed of that department of literature in general which is usually known by the name of *belles lettres*. Led astray by Chinese prejudices, and falling in with Chinese feelings, respecting their ancient books, these writers have so stuffed their communications with excessive panegyric on the beauties of the four *King*, and the wisdom and virtues of *Yao* and *Chun*, as to leave themselves no time to inquire into the moderate state of general literature. We are told, indeed, by Pere Cibot,* and the remark is copied from him by the Abbé Grozier, "that they would speak, in China, of a man of letters making good verses, just as they would speak, in France, of a captain of infantry playing well on the violin;" yet both the one and the other immediately contradict such a notion, by quoting several pieces of poetry, both ancient and modern, extolling their beauties, and endeavouring to shew their influence over the passions, and the estimation in which they have been held from the earliest periods to the present times. The truth is, the most ancient records that remain of China, consist of poetry. The very symbol by which compositions of this kind are designated, points out their early origin;—*shee*, a character compounded of a *word*, and a *hall* or *temple*, a place from which the magistrates anciently delivered instruction to the people—the *words of the temple*—being short-measured sentences, composed generally of four characters, so chosen as to be each of them very expres-

* *Mém. Chin. Tom. viii. p. 237.*

sive and significant, and easily committed to the memory. The Book of Odes, one of the four most eminent and ancient of their classics, is chiefly composed of this kind of verse.

It is not necessary, however, to dive into the depths of antiquity, or to have recourse to ancient compositions, in order to prove a very general predilection of the Chinese for epic and lyric poetry. The late *Kien-lung* amused himself with writing an epic poem, called *Moukden*, and two or three others of considerable length, besides several lyrical odes, songs, and epigrams, as half the tea cups in the empire can testify; his unfortunate favourite, whose wealth and influence drew upon him the vengeance of the reigning emperor, wrote verses in his prison the day before his execution; and the editor has in his possession the translation of a copy of verses, entitled “London;” written by a Chinese, who had accompanied a gentleman to England, in the capacity of his servant, describing very concisely, but characteristically, what he saw, and more particularly, those things which contrasted with the manners and appearances of his own country.

It is not correct, therefore, to say that the Chinese have no relish for poetry. They cannot avoid liking it, for every symbol of their written language is poetical; each character presenting to the eye, and through it to the mind, the picture of the idea which it is meant to represent. It is true, some of the missionaries make a reserve in favour of ancient poetry: “the good old times” are praised in more countries than in

China, and with as little knowledge of what their “goodness” consisted in; but Mr. Morrison, in his Chinese grammar, quotes a Chinese author who seems to have sounder notions on the subject than either Pere Cibot or the Abbé Grozier: he compares the progress of poetry among his countrymen to the gradual growth of a tree: “the ancient *She-king* (the Book of Odes) may be likened to the roots; when *Soo-loo* flourished, the buds appeared; in the time of *Keen-ngan* there was abundance of leaves; but during the dynasty *Tang*, many reposed under the shade of the tree, and it yielded rich supplies of flowers and fruit.”*

In like manner the two writers above mentioned, Cibot first, and Grozier servilely copying him, pretend to say, that from the earliest periods in which theatrical exhibitions entered into domestic amusements, and the public entertainments of the court, the learned have not ceased to publish philosophical observations on the dangers of the theatre, and its baneful effects on public manners. “Plays (says one of these philosophers) are a kind of artificial fire-works of wit, which appear in the night of disorder; they debase and expose those who let them off, fatigue the delicate eyes of the sage, occupy dangerously idle minds, expose women and children who listen to them, give out more of smoke and stench than of light, leaving only a dangerous dazzling, and often cause dreadful conflagrations.”† Yet in the same page

* Grammar of the Chinese Language, p. 273.

† Mem. Chin. Tom. viii. p. 227.

we are told that the greater part of Chinese comedies and tragedies appear to be written to shew the deformity of vice and the charms of virtue. The writer might have added, that they are universally performed and encouraged from the court to the cottage; that the Chinese are so passionately fond of scenic representations, that in most houses of the great, a hall is set apart for the performance of plays; that no entertainment is ever given without a company of comedians to amuse the guests; that they constitute a part of all public festivals; and that foreign ambassadors are invariably entertained with theatrical representations: — he might further have added, that it is not true, as he asserts, that public theatres are put on a level with houses of prostitution and confined to the suburbs of cities.* There is no such thing, in fact, as a public theatre in all China. A Chinese company of players will at any time construct a theatre in the course of a couple of hours; a few bamboos as posts to support a roof of mats, and a floor of boards, raised some six or seven feet from the ground; and a few pieces of painted cotton to cover the three sides, the front being left entirely open, are all that is required for the construction of a Chinese theatre; which very much resembles, when finished, one of those booths erected for similar purposes in Bartholomew Fair, but is far less substantial. Indeed a common apartment is all that is necessary for the performance of a Chinese play. They have no

scenical deception to assist the story, as in the modern theatres of Europe; and the odd expedients to which they are sometimes driven by the want of scenery are not many degrees above Nick Bottom's "bush of thorns and a lantern, to disfigure or to present the person of moonshine;" or the man with "some plaister, or some lome, or some rough cast about him to signify wall;" thus a general is ordered upon an expedition to a distant province, he mounts a stick, or brandishes a whip, or takes in his hand the reins of a bridle, and striding three or four times round the stage in the midst of a tremendous crash of gongs, drums, and trumpets, he stops short, and tells the audience where he is got to; if the wall of a city is to be stormed, three or four soldiers lie down on each other to "present wall." A tolerable judgment may be formed of what little assistance the imaginations of an English audience derived from scenical deception, by the state of the drama and the stage as described by Sir Philip Sidney, about the year 1583. "Now you shall have three ladies walk to gather flowers, and then we must believe the stage to be a garden. By and by we have news of shipwreck in the same place; then we are to blame, if we accept it not for a rock. Upon the back of that, comes out a hideous monster with fire and smoke; and then the miserable beholders are bound to take it for a cave; while in the mean time two armies fly in, represented with four swords and bucklers, and then what hard heart will not receive it for a pitched field?"

* Ut supra. Grozier, vol. ii. p. 417.

field?"* Inigo Jones appears to be the first who invented *painted cloths* for moveable scenes, which were used at Oxford in 1605.

It is very true that stage players are not held in great respect by the Chinese; and Cibot had probably read the statute† against civil or military officers of government, or the sons of those who possess hereditary rank, frequenting the company of prostitutes and actresses, which led him into the mistake of the juxta-position of their trading concerns, a mistake, the more likely to be committed, as he frankly owns he knows very little of the matter, and takes no interest in the subject. We must be cautious, however, in estimating the conduct of the Chinese from their moral maxims or legal precepts: there is no people on earth whose practice is so much at variance with their professed principles; as a striking instance of this remark, it may be observed, that the late emperor *Kien-lung*, in the teeth of the above mentioned statute, took an actress for one of his inferior wives or concubines; since which, it is said, females have been prohibited from appearing on the stage, and their places supplied by boys, and those creatures who are of neither sex. No women ever appeared on the Greek and the Roman theatres; but the characters in the dramas of the latter, as in those of China, were sometimes played by eunuchs. The soft and delicate female characters of Shakespeare had not the advantage of being played by a female during his life; Mrs. Bet-

terton, about 1660, being the first, or about the first, female who played Juliet and Ophelia. It is observed in the prologue to the *Moor of Venice*, in introducing the first female who played *Desdemona*,—

“ 'Tis possible a virtuous woman may
Abhor all sorts of looseness, and yet play.”*

No prohibition, however, of females acting on the Chinese stage, appears in the code of laws; but it is enacted, that “all strolling players, who shall be guilty of purchasing the sons or daughters of *free* persons, in order to educate them as actors or actresses; or who shall be guilty of marrying or adopting as children such free persons, shall, in each case, be punished with a hundred blows of the bamboo;”†—and the same punishment is extended to the seller of free persons, and to females born of free parents voluntarily intermarrying with strolling players.

It has been said, that in Pekin alone there are several hundred companies of comedians, when the court is there, and that at other times they travel about from one city to another. A company generally consists of eight or ten persons, who are literally the servants or slaves of the master or manager. They travel about from place to place in a covered barge, on canals or rivers near to which most great cities are situated; these barges are their habitations, and in these they are instructed in their parts by the master. When called on to perform before a party, a list of the plays they are prepared

* Malone's Shakespeare, vol. ii. p. 57.

† Ta-tsing-leu-lee, p. 410.

* Malone's Shakespeare, vol. ii. p. 93.

† Ta-tsing-leu-lee, p. 410.

to represent is put into the hands of the master of the feast, who consults his guests as to the choice to be made; this done, the dramatic personæ are read over; and if it should happen that a name occurs therein, corresponding with the name of any of the guests, another piece is immediately chosen, in order that no offensive act or allusion in the play may be coupled with the name of the auditor. Perhaps, however, this restrained delicacy is only on paper, and not followed up in practice; just as the statute which prohibits musicians and stage-players from representing, in any of their performances, "emperors, empresses, famous princes, ministers, and generals of former ages," is perpetually infringed, such representations being, in fact, the favourite and most usual subjects of theatric exhibition. Indeed there is a saving clause, which says, that "this law is not intended to prohibit the exhibition upon the stage of fictitious characters of just and upright men, of chaste wives, and pious and obedient children, all which may tend to dispose the minds of the spectators to the practice of virtue."*

When the common people wish for a theatrical entertainment, they subscribe among themselves a sum sufficient to cover the expense of erecting the temporary theatre and paying the actors, which is said to be very moderate. De Guignes says, that the temples or pagodas are sometimes used for theatres,† which is not impossible, as they are the common places of

resort for gamblers, and the lodging-houses of foreign ambassadors, and officers travelling in the public service. But neither in this respect would the Chinese be singular; our old *mysteries* and *moralities* were frequently played in churches. Taverns in China have also a large room set apart for the entertainment of guests with theatrical exhibitions; just as in England, companies of players had occasional stages erected in the yards of the principal inns, in Queen Elizabeth's time.

If the missionaries have communicated little information respecting the actual state of theatrical representations in China, the descriptions, which occasional visitors to that country have given of the actual state of scenic exhibitions, convey a tolerably correct notion of what they are: and they certainly are not of a nature to give us any very exalted notion of the state of the drama, or of the refinement of the people. The most singular and inexplicable part of the subject is, that those representations would appear to descend into lowness and vulgarity, in the inverse ratio of the rank and situation in life of the parties for whose amusement they are exhibited. Thus, at the court of Peking, and in presence of His Imperial Majesty, Ysbrandt Ives, the Russian ambassador in 1692, was entertained with jugglers, posture-makers, and harlequins, while on his way thither; and not far from the great wall, the governor of a city entertained him with a regular play. "First," says he, "entered a very beautiful lady, magnificently dressed in cloth of gold, adorned with jewels, and a crown on her head,

* T'a-tsing-leu-lee, p. 418.

† Voyage à Peking, Tom. ii. p. 322.

head, singing her speech, with a charming voice, and agreeable motion of the body, playing with her hands, in one of which she held a fan. The prologue thus performed, the play followed, the story of which turned upon a Chinese emperor, long since dead, who had behaved himself well towards his country, and in honour of whose memory the play was written. Sometimes he appeared in royal robes, with a flat ivory sceptre in his hand, and sometimes his officers shewed themselves with ensigns, arms, and drums, &c. and by intervals a sort of farce was acted by their lacqueys, whose antick dress and painted faces were as well as any I have seen in Europe; and, as far as was interpreted to me, their farce was very diverting, especially part of it which represented a person who had in his marriage been cheated by a debauched wife, and fancying her constant to him, had the mortification to see another make love to her before his face." *

Mr. Bell, who accompanied the Russian ambassador to Peking in 1719, describes the court amusements to consist of wrestling, sham-fights, tumbling, posture-making, and fire-works. At an entertainment given to the gentlemen of the embassy, by one of the emperor's sons, the amusements were somewhat better. Speaking of the comedians, he says, "There entered on the stage seven warriors, all in armour, with different weapons in their hands, and terrible vizards on their faces. After they had taken a few turns about the stage, and survey-

ed each other's armour, they at last fell a quarrelling; and, in the encounter, one of the heroes was slain. Then an angel descended from the clouds, in a flash of lightning, with a monstrous sword in his hand, and soon parted the combatants, by driving them all off the stage; which done, he ascended in the same manner he came down, in a cloud of fire and smoke. This scene was succeeded by several comical farces, which, to me, seemed very diverting, though in a language I did not understand." * But the comedy performed at a tavern in Peking, "by a company of players maintained by the house," at an entertainment given to them by "a young Chinese gentleman," afforded to all great pleasure; "and the performers consisted of both men and women, well-dressed, and of decent behaviour." †

Lord Macartney, in his own journal, describes the wrestling, tumbling, wire-dancing, conjuring, and fire-works, that were exhibited at his introduction to the late Emperor Kien-lung, and seems to speak of them with great contempt, except the ingenuity with which the Chinese had displayed their art in clothing fire with all manner of colours and shapes. Their "wretched dramas," as he calls them, are thus described. "The theatrical entertainments consisted of great variety, both tragical and comical; several distinct pieces were acted in succession, though without any apparent connexion with one another. Some of them were his-

* Harris's Voyages, vol. ii. p. 939.

* Bell's Travels from St. Petersburg, page 288.

† Ibid. p. 310.

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orical, and others of pure fancy, partly in *recitativo*, partly in singing, and partly in plain speaking, without any accompaniment of instrumental music, but abounding in battles, murders, and most of the usual incidents of the drama. Last of all, was the grand pantomime, which, from the approbation it met with, is, I presume, considered a first-rate effort of invention and ingenuity. It seemed to me, as far as I could comprehend it, to represent the marriage of the Ocean and the Earth. The latter exhibited her various riches and productions, dragons and elephants and tigers and eagles and ostriches, oaks and pines, and other trees of different kinds. The ocean was not behind hand, but poured forth on the stage the wealth of his dominions, under the figures of whales and dolphins, porpoises and leviathans, and other sea-monsters, besides ships, rocks, shells, sponges, and corals, all performed by concealed actors, who were quite perfect in their parts, and performed their characters to admiration. These two marine and land regiments, after separately parading in a circular procession for a considerable time, at last joined together, and forming one body, came to the front of the stage, when, after a few evolutions, they opened to the right and left, to give room for the whale, who seemed to be the commanding officer, to waddle forward; and who, taking his station exactly opposite to the emperor's box, spouted out of his mouth into the pit several tuns of water, which quickly disappeared through the perforations of the floor. This ejaculation was received with the

highest applause, and two or three of the great men at my elbow desired me to take particular notice of it; repeating, at the same time, '*hao! hung hao!*'—charming, delightful! *

Mr. Barrow, in describing the amusements given to the Dutch ambassadors in 1795, from the journal of a gentleman in their suite, speaks of posture-making, rope-dancing, "and a sort of pantomimic performance, the principal characters of which were men dressed in skins, and going on all fours, intended to represent wild beasts; and a parcel of boys, habited in the dresses of mandarins, who were to hunt them." † And again, after the whole court had been terribly frightened by an eclipse of the moon, an entertainment was given to the ambassadors, during which "a pantomime, intended to be an exhibition of the battle of the dragon and the moon, was represented before the full court. In this engagement, two or three hundred priests, bearing lanterns suspended at the ends of long sticks, performed a variety of evolutions, dancing and capering about, sometimes over the plain, and then over chairs and tables, affording to his imperial majesty, and to his courtiers, the greatest pleasure and satisfaction." De Guignes also, who accompanied these ambassadors, describes this scene as a very puerile and ludicrous representation. "A number of Chinese," he says, "placed at the distance of six feet from one another, now entered, bearing two

* Life of the Earl of Macartney, vol. ii.

† Barrow's Travels in China, p. 216.

long dragons of silk or paper, painted blue, with white scales, and stuffed with lighted lamps. These two dragons, after saluting the emperor with due respect, moved up and down with great composure ; when the moon suddenly made her appearance, upon which they began to run after her. The moon, however, fearlessly placed herself between them, and the two dragons, after surveying her for some time, and concluding apparently, that she was too large a morsel for them to swallow, judged it prudent to retire ; which they did with the same ceremony as they entered. The moon, elated with her triumph, then withdrew with prodigious gravity : a little flushed, however, with the chase which she had sustained." *

It would seem, however, that meanness and vulgarity are not the most objectionable charges to which the exhibitions of the Chinese stage are obnoxious ; some of them being grossly indecent and obscene. An instance is mentioned by Mr. Barrow, of a woman being condemned to be flayed alive, for the murder of her husband ; she appears on the stage not only naked, but completely excoriated : and he adds, that the European gentlemen at Canton, are sometimes so disgusted with the filthy and obscene exhibitions, as to leave the theatre.† “ The history of husbands deceived by their mistresses,” says Mons. de Guignes, “ being frequently the subject of their comedies, there occur therein sometimes situations so free, and in which the actor ex-

hibits so much truth, that the scene becomes extremely indecent : ” and he mentions an instance of which he was an eye-witness, where the heroine of the piece “ devint grosse et accoucha sur le théâtre d'un enfant.” The piece was called the *See-hou Pagoda*, being the history of the destruction of the pagoda in ruins on that famous lake described by Mr. Barrow under the name of *Lui-fung-ta*, the temple of the thundering winds. “ Several genii mounted upon serpents, and marching along the margin of the lake, opened the scene ; a neighbouring bonze shortly after made love to one of these goddesses, who, in spite of the remonstrances of her sister, listened to the young man, married him, became pregnant, and was delivered of a child upon the stage, who very soon found itself in a condition to walk about. Enraged at this scandalous adventure, the genii drove away the bonze, and finished by striking the pagoda with lightning, and reducing it to the ruined condition in which it now appears.” *

As scenes like these are stated to have thrown the audience into raptures, M. de Guignes very naturally concludes the real character of the Chinese to be vicious. We must not, however, judge too harshly on performances, which, for “ licentious pleasantries,” we could fairly match them several hundred years after those of the Chinese were written. Warton has observed, that “ gross and open obscenities ” enter into our old mysteries or religious representations ; that in a play of the “ Old

* Voyage à Pekin, vol. i. p. 421.

† Travels in China, p. 222.

* Voyage à Pekin, vol. ii. p. 324.

and New Testament," Adam and Eve were both exhibited on the stage *naked*, and appeared in the subsequent scene with their fig-leaves; and Malone says, this kind of primitive exhibition was revived in the time of James the First; "several persons appearing almost entirely naked, in a pastoral exhibited at Oxford before the king and queen, and the ladies who attended her."

Mr. Barrow has conjectured, that the low and trifling amusements of the court, may have been introduced by the Tartars, as more congenial to their rude and unpolished manners, while the songs and recitative of the regular drama are more suited to the genius and spirit of the ceremonious Chinese. The two Mahomedans who visited China are silent on the subject; and Marco Polo only observes, that at the emperor's feasts were buffoons, and players on musical instruments, and posture-masters. At that time, however, a Tartar dynasty also occupied the throne.

As far as the mere spectacle is concerned, the several travellers we have mentioned could not well be mistaken. Some deduction, however, ought probably to be made, on account of their ignorance of the language. The absurdities that strike the eye they are capable of describing, but the dialogue of the regular drama, being utterly unintelligible, ceases to create any interest. What their merits and defects may therefore be, Europeans have hitherto possessed very slender means of forming a sound judgment. A garbled translation of a single drama by Pere Premare, a jesuit, is the solitary specimen of this kind of

composition in any European language, before that which is now offered to the public. It is called the Orphan of Chao, and forms one of a collection of one hundred plays, written under the dynasty of Yuen,* in the fourteenth century. Voltaire, who adapted the subject to the French stage, considers it as a valuable monument of Chinese literature at that early period, barbarous as it is when compared with the dramatic art in Europe, but far superior to any thing that Europe could boast at the time it was written. He considers it at least equal to the English and Spanish tragedies of the seventeenth century; and observes that, "like the monstrous farces of Shakespeare, and of Lopez de Vega, which have been called tragedies, the action of the Chinese piece continues five and twenty years." — "Monstrous," however, as they may be, few Englishmen would give up the worst "farce" of Shakespeare, for the heavy monotony and blustering declamation of the best "tragedy" of Voltaire. He admits that "the Orphan of Chao," notwithstanding the improbability of the occurrences, has something in it which interests us; and that, in spite of the innumerable crowd of events, they are all exhibited in the most clear and distinct manner—but these he considers as its only beauties; unity of time and action, sentiment, character, eloquence, passion, all, he says, are wanting. Some of them, it is true, are wanting in Premare's translation, because he has omitted most of the

* This dynasty commenced in 1260, and ceased in 1333.

poetry, or those parts which have been compared with the Greek chorus, and in which sentiment, eloquence, passion, are all expressed; that is to say, he has left out the very best parts of the play. Our countryman, Dr. Hurd, in his “Discourse on Poetical Imitation,” formed a very different opinion of this tragedy from that of Voltaire. He conceived that it embraces the two essentials of dramatic poetry, unity and integrity of action—and a close connexion of the incidents of the story; for, first, he observes “the action is strictly one; the destruction of the House of Chao is the single event on which our attention turns from the beginning; we see it gradually prepared and brought on; and with its completion the tragedy finishes. Secondly, the action proceeds with as much rapidity as Aristotle himself demands”—and having noticed its resemblance in many points to the *Electra* of Sophocles—“let me add,” says he, “an intermixture of songs in passionate parts, heightened into sublime poetry, and somewhat resembling the character of the ancient chorus.” Had Premare translated more of these lyrics, he would probably have found the resemblance still more complete.

The comedy of an “Heir in his Old Age,” is the simple representation of a story in domestic life—a plain, “unvarnished tale,” in which Chinese manners and Chinese feelings are faithfully delineated and expressed, in a natural manner, and in appropriate language. Two things, however, must be borne in mind by the European reader, to enable him to

enter fully into the spirit of this play—first, that filial piety is, among the Chinese, the first of virtues, and the lack of it, one of the worst of crimes; that it is the grand basis on which all the religious, moral, and civil institutions of the empire are founded; that the greatest misfortune in life is the want of a son to honour and console his aged parents, and to visit annually their tombs when dead—and, secondly, that to afford every means of procuring a son, a man may take inferior wives or concubines, who are generally purchased from poor relations; such wives having no rights of their own, and their children being considered as the children of the first or legitimate wife, who call her by the name of mother, and are entitled to the same rights and privileges as her own children.

The *dramatis personæ* of this play are made up entirely of the members of a family in the middling class of society, consisting of an old man, his wife, his second or inferior wife, his nephew, his son-in-law, and his daughter. The old man, having amassed considerable wealth by trade, and having no son to console him in his old age, and to perform the obsequies at his tomb, had taken a second wife, whose pregnancy is announced in the opening of the play. In order to propitiate heaven to favour him with a son in his old age, he makes a sacrifice of all the small debts due to him, by burning the documents, which at the same time serves to quiet some scruples of conscience as to the mode in which part of his money had been acquired. He then divides his property between his

his wife and his married daughter, giving to his nephew, (a deceased brother's son) a hundred pieces of silver, and sending him away to seek his fortune, the wife, owing to an old quarrel with his deceased mother, leading him a most unhappy life at home. The old gentleman then sets out for his estate in the country, recommending his pregnant wife to the humane treatment of his family, and in the hope of receiving from them speedy congratulations on the birth of a son.

He is no sooner departed, however, when the son-in-law cannot conceal from the daughter his disappointment at the pregnancy of the old man's second wife, as, if she brings forth a girl, he will lose half the family property, and if a son, the whole. His wife soothes him by a hint how easily she may be got rid of, and the old man persuaded that she had suddenly disappeared; and shortly after both the son-in-law and the audience are left to infer that she has actually contrived to put her to death. In the mean time, the old man waits the result in great anxiety; his family appear in succession to console him for the loss of his second wife, which he is reluctantly brought to believe. In the bitterness of his disappointment, he bursts into tears, and expresses strong suspicions of some foul play. He attributes his misfortunes to his former thirst of gain, resolves to fast for seven days, and to bestow alms publicly at a neighbouring temple, in the hope that the objects of his charity may treat him as a father. Among the beggars at the temple, his

nephew appears, in the most hopeless state of poverty, being reduced to take up his lodging under the furnace of a pottery; he is insulted by the son-in-law, and reproached by the old wife; but his uncle, moved with compassion, contrives to give him a little money, and earnestly advises him to be punctual in visiting the tombs of his family at the approaching spring, assuring him that a due attention to filial piety must ultimately lead to wealth. The nephew accordingly appears at the tombs, performs the rites of oblation, as far as his poverty will admit, and invokes the shades of his ancestors to commiserate his distress, and to grant him their protection. He no sooner departs than the uncle and aunt appear, and express their indignation that their own daughter and son-in-law have neglected their duty, in not being there with the customary offerings; they observe that, from the earth being turned up, and paper burnt, some needy person must have been there, and conclude it to be their nephew. The scene of the tombs, and the reflections to which it gives rise in the old man's mind, have considerable interest; he reasons with his wife, convinces her that the nephew is more worthy, as well as nearer in blood, than the son-in-law; she relents, and expresses a wish to make him reparation; he appears, a conciliation takes place, and he is again received into the family. Soon after this, the son-in-law and daughter appear, with a great noise, and a procession of village officers, to perform the ceremonies; but are received

by their parents with bitter reproaches for their tardy piety and ingratitude, and ordered never to enter their doors again. On the old man's birth-day, however, they send to ask permission to pay their respects, when, to the utter astonishment and unbounded joy of the old man, his daughter presents him with his second wife and her son, now about three years of age, both of whom it appears had been secreted by the daughter, and supported, out of affection for her father, and unknown to the husband, who had supposed them to have been otherwise disposed of. The daughter is separated from her husband, and taken back into her family; a new arrangement is made for the disposal of the old man's property, the daughter to have a third, the nephew a third, and the little son a third; and the piece concludes with expressions of joy and gratitude for the old gentleman having been blessed with "an heir in his old age."

Such is the brief outline of the fable; the unity and integrity of action and design are strictly adhered to, and all the incidents are closely connected with the story, which turns entirely on the misery arising out of the want of an heir to perform the duties which filial piety demand, both to the living and the dead. The time employed in the course of the piece is three years, but the events follow each other in so natural a manner, and with such uninterrupted rapidity, that the time elapsed would not be perceived but for the age of the child brought forward in the concluding act. The several scenes

and acts are as properly divided as those of an European drama; the sentiments are naturally expressed, often tender and affecting, and always friendly to virtue. The translator observes, that a few passages which were grossly indecent, have been omitted in the translation; the Chinese, with all their politeness, are coarse in their expressions; and we have seen that, from a too close adherence to nature and to facts, the scenic representations are often exceedingly gross and indelicate. "*Il s'mettent,*" says De Guignes, "*trop de la verité dans le scène.*"

The lyrical compositions, which prevail more in tragedy than in comedy, certainly bear a strong resemblance to the chorus of the old Greek tragedy; like the chorus too, they are sung with an accompaniment of music. The translator seems to think that these passages are chiefly intended to gratify the ear, and that sense is very often sacrificed to sound; even if this were the case, examples of the same kind might be produced nearer home. Perhaps, however, their obscurity may be owing to the nature of the written language, in which associations of ideas are presented rather to the eye, or to the recollection, than to the ear, by a combination of signs or symbols, on the choice of which the force of the expression must depend. Mr. Morrison observes, that "without extensive knowledge of their ancient poetry, and the customs and manners of the country, it is very difficult to understand their poetical compositions. The very point and beauty of the piece often depends on some slight

slight allusion, which a foreigner does not perceive; added to which the style is peculiarly concise, and unusual words are introduced." *

The opening or prologue of a Chinese drama, in which the principal personages come forward to declare the characters of the piece, and to let the audience into the argument or story on which the action is to turn, bears a strong resemblance to the prologues of the Greek drama, and particularly to those of Euripides.

In comedy the dialogue is carried on in the common colloquial language, but in the higher order of historical and tragical plays, the tone of voice is elevated considerably above its natural pitch, and continued throughout in a kind of whining monotony, having some resemblance to, but wanting the modulations and cadences of, the recitative in the Italian opera; as in this too, the sentiments of grief, joy, love, hatred, revenge, &c. are in the Chinese dramas, usually thrown into lyric poetry, and sung in soft or boisterous airs, according to

the sentiment expressed, and the situation of the actor; they are also accompanied with loud music, the performers being placed on the back part of the stage.

Whatever may be the merits and the defects of the Chinese drama, it is unquestionably their own invention. The only nation from whence they could have borrowed any thing, is that of Hindostan, from whence they imported the religion of Budh; but as we know nothing of the Hindoo drama, except from the single specimen of *Sacotala*, translated by Sir William Jones, in a manner, it is said, sufficiently *free*; and as that drama differs more from the Chinese than the latter from the Greek, Roman, English, or Italian, there is not the slightest grounds for supposing that the one was borrowed from the other. There is, indeed, a characteristic difference between them; the one adhering strictly to nature, and describing human manners and human feelings; the other soaring beyond nature, into the labyrinth of an intricate and inexplicable mythology.

* Morrison's Chinese Grammar, p. 275.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Narrative of a Journey from the village of Chamouni to the summit of Mount Blanc, undertaken on Aug. 8, 1787. By Colonel Beaufoy.

[From the Annals of Philosophy.]

THE desire of ascending to the highest part of remarkably elevated land is so natural to every man, and the hope of repeating various experiments in the upper regions of the air is so inviting to those who wish well to the interests of science, that, being lately in Switzerland, I could not resist the inclination I felt to reach the summit of Mount Blanc. One of the motives, however, which prompted the attempt was much weakened by the consideration that I did not possess, and in that country could not obtain, the instruments that were requisite for many of the experiments which I was anxious to make; and the ardour of common curiosity was diminished when I learned that Dr. Paccard and his guide, who in the year 1786 had reached the supposed inaccessible summit of the hill, were not the only persons who had succeeded in the attempt;

for that, five days before my arrival at the foot of the mountain, M. de Saussure, a professor in the university of Geneva, had gained the top of the ascent. But while I was informed of the success which had attended the efforts of M. de Saussure, I was told of the difficulties and dangers that accompanied the undertaking; and was often assured, with much laborious dissuasion, that, to all the usual obstacles, the lateness of the season would add the perils of those stupendous masses of snow which are often dislodged from the steeps of the mountain, together with the hazard of those frightful chasms which present immeasurable gulfs to the steps of the traveller, and the width of which was hourly increasing. M. Bourrit, whose name has often been announced to the world by a variety of tracts, and by many excellent drawings, confirmed the account, and assured me that he himself had made the attempt on the next day to that on which M. de Saussure descended, but was obliged, as on many former occasions, to abandon the enterprise. Having formed my resolution, I
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sent to the different cottagers of the vale of Chamouni, from the skirts of which the mountain takes its rise, to inquire if any of them were willing to go with me as my assistants and my guides, and had soon the satisfaction to find that ten were ready to accept the proposal. I engaged them all. Having announced to them my intention of setting out the next morning, I divided among them provisions for three days, together with a kettle, a chaffing-dish, a quantity of charcoal, a pair of bellows, a couple of blankets, a long rope, a hatchet, and a ladder, which formed the stores that were requisite for the journey. After a night of much solicitude, lest the summit of Mount Blanc should be covered with clouds, in which case the guides would have refused the undertaking as impracticable, I rose at five in the morning, and saw, with great satisfaction, that the mountain was free from vapour, and that the sky was every where serene. My dress was a white flannel jacket without any shirt beneath, and white linen trousers without drawers. The dress was white that the sunbeams might be thrown off; and it was loose, that the limbs might be unconfined. Besides a pole for walking, I carried with me cramp-irons for the heels of my shoes, by means of which the hold of the frozen snow is firm, and in steep ascents the poise of the body is preserved. My guides being at length assembled, each with his allotted burthen; and one of them, a fellow of great bodily strength, and great vigour of mind, Michael Cachet by name, who had accompanied M. de Saussure, having desired to

take the lead, we ranged ourselves in a line, and at seven o'clock, in the midst of the wives, and children, and friends, of my companions, and indeed of the whole village of Chamouni, we began our march. The end of the first hour brought us to the *Glaciere des Boissons*, at which place the rapid ascent of the mountain first begins, and from which, pursuing our course along the edge of the rocks that form the eastern side of this frozen lake, we arrived in four hours more at the second *glaciere*, called the *Glaciere de la Côté*. Here, by the side of a stream of water which the melting of the snow had formed, we sat down to a short repast. To this place the journey is neither remarkably laborious, nor exposed to danger, except that name should be given to the trifling hazard that arises from the stones and loose pieces of the broken rock which the goats, in leaping from one projection to another, occasionally throw down. Our dinner being finished, we fixed our cramp-irons to our shoes, and began to cross the *glaciere*; but we had not proceeded far when we discovered that the frozen snow which lay in the ridges between the waves of ice, often concealed, with a covering of uncertain strength, the fathomless chasms which traverse this solid sea; yet the danger was soon in a great degree removed by the expedient of tying ourselves together with our long rope, which being fastened at proper distances to our waists, secured from the principal hazard such as might fall within the opening of the gulf. Trusting to the same precaution, we also crossed upon
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our ladder without apprehension such of the chasms as were exposed to view; and, sometimes stopping in the middle of the ladder, looked down in safety upon an abyss which baffled the reach of vision, and from which the sound of the masses of ice that we repeatedly let fall in no instance ascended to the ear. In some places we were obliged to cut footsteps with our hatchet; yet, on the whole, the difficulties were far from great; for in two hours and a half we had passed the glaciere. We now, with more ease, and much more expedition, pursued our way, having only snow to cross, and in two hours arrived at a hut which had been erected in the year 1786 by the order, and at the expense, of M. de Saussure. The hut was situated on the eastern side of a rock which had all the appearance of being rotten with age, and which in fact was in a state of such complete decay, that, on my return the next evening, I saw scattered on the snow many tons of its fragments, which had fallen in my absence; but the ruin was not on the side on which the hut was built. Immediately on our arrival, which was at five in the afternoon, the guides began to empty the hut of its snow; and at seven we sat down to eat; but our stomachs had little relish for food, and felt a particular distaste for wine and spirits. Water, which we obtained by melting snow in a kettle, was the only palatable drink. Some of the guides complained of a heavy disheartening sickness; and my Swiss servant, who had accompanied me at his own request, was seized with excessive vomiting, and the

pains of the severest headach. But from these complaints, which apparently arose from the extreme lightness of the air in those elevated regions, I myself and some of the guides were free, except, as before observed, that we had little appetite for food, and a strong aversion to the taste of spirituous liquors. We now prepared for rest; on which two of the guides, preferring the open air, threw themselves down at the entrance of the hut, and slept upon the rock. I too was desirous of sleep; but my thoughts were troubled with the apprehension that, although I had now completed one half of the road, the vapours might collect on the summit of the mountain, and frustrate all my hopes. Or if at any time the rest I wished for came, my repose was soon disturbed by the noise of the masses of snow which were loosened by the wind from the heights around me, and which, accumulating in bulk as they rolled, tumbled at length from the precipices into the vales below, and produced upon the ear the effect of redoubled bursts of thunder. At two o'clock I threw aside my blankets, and went out of the hut to observe the appearance of the heavens. The stars shone with a lustre that far exceeded the brightness which they exhibit when seen from the usual level; and had so little tremor in their light, as to leave no doubt on my mind that, if viewed from the summit of the mountain, they would have appeared as fixed points. How improved in those altitudes would be the aids which the telescope gives to vision; indeed, the clearness of the air was such

such as led me to think that Jupiter's satellites might be distinguished by the naked eye; and had he not been in the neighbourhood of the moon, I might possibly have succeeded. He continued distinctly visible for several hours after the sun was risen, and did not wholly disappear till almost eight. At the time I rose, my thermometer, which was on Fahrenheit's scale, and which I had hung on the side of the rock without the hut, was 8° below the freezing point. Impatient to proceed, and having ordered a large quantity of snow to be melted, I filled a small cask with water for my own use, and at three o'clock we left the hut. Our route was across the snow; but the chasms which the ice beneath had formed, though less numerous than those that we had passed on the preceding day, embarrassed our ascent. One in particular had opened so much in the few days that intervened between M. de Saussure's expedition and our own, as for the time to bar the hope of any further progress; but at length, after having wandered with much anxiety along its bank, I found a place which I hoped the ladder was sufficiently long to cross. The ladder was accordingly laid down, and was seen to rest upon the opposite edge, but its bearing did not exceed an inch on either side. We now considered that, should we pass the chasm, and should its opening, which had enlarged so much in the course of a few preceding days, increase in the least degree before the time of our descent, no chance of return remained. We also considered that, if the clouds which so often enve-

lope the hill should rise, the hope of finding, amidst the thick fog, our way back to this only place in which the gulf, even in its present state, was passable, was little less than desperate. Yet, after a moment's pause, the guides consented to go with me, and we crossed the chasm. We had not proceeded far when the thirst, which, since our arrival in the upper regions of the air, had been always troublesome, became almost intolerable. No sooner had I drank than the thirst returned, and in a few minutes my throat became perfectly dry. Again I had recourse to the water, and again my throat was parched. The air itself was thirsty; its extreme of dryness had robbed my body of its moisture. Though continually drinking, the quantity of my urine was almost nothing; and of the little there was, the colour was extremely deep. The guides were equally affected. Wine they would not taste; but the moment my back was turned, their mouths were eagerly applied to my cask of water. Yet we continued to proceed till seven o'clock; when, having passed the place where M. de Saussure, who was provided with a tent, had slept the second night, we sat down to breakfast. All this time the thermometer was 4° below the freezing point. We were now at the foot of Mount Blanc itself; for, though it is usual to apply that term to the whole assemblage of several successive mountains, yet the name properly belongs only to a small mountain of pyramidal form that rises from a narrow plain which at all times is covered with snow. Here the thinness of the atmosphere

atmosphere began to affect my head with a dull and heavy pain. I also found, to my great surprise, an acute sensation of pain, very different from that of weariness, immediately above my knees. Having finished our repast, we pursued our journey, and soon arrived at a chasm which could not have existed many days, for it was not formed at the time of M. de Saussure's ascent. Misled by this last circumstance, for we concluded that, as he had seen no rents whatever from the time that he passed the place where he slept the second night, none were likely to be formed, we had left our ladder about a league behind; but as the chasm was far from wide, we passed it on the poles that we used for walking; an expedient which suggested to me that the length of our ladder might be easily increased by the addition of several poles laid parallel and fastened to its end; and that the hazard of finding our retreat cut off from the enlargement of the chasms might by this means be materially diminished. At this place I had an opportunity of measuring the height of the snow which had fallen during the preceding winter, and which was distinguished by its superior whiteness from that of the former year. I found it to be five feet. The snow of each particular year appeared as a separate stratum; that which was more than a twelvemonth old was perfect ice; while that of the last winter was fast approaching to a similar state. At length, after a difficult ascent, which lay among precipices, and during which we were often obliged to employ the hatchet in making a footing for

our feet, we reached and reposed ourselves upon a narrow flat which is the last of three from the foot of the small mountain, and which, according to M. de Saussure, is but 150 fathoms below the level of the summit. Upon this platform I found a beautiful dead butterfly, the only appearance which, from the time I entered on the snow, I had seen of any animal. The pernicious effects of the thinness of the air were now evident on us all; a desire, almost irresistible, of sleep came on. My spirits had left me; sometimes indifferent as to the event, I wished to lie down; at others, I blamed myself for the expedition; and, though just at the summit, had thoughts of turning back, without accomplishing my purpose. Of my guides many were in a worse situation; for, exhausted by excessive vomiting, they seemed to have lost all strength, both of mind and body. But shame at length came to our relief. I drank the last pint of water that was left, and found myself amazingly refreshed. Yet the pain in my knees had increased so much, that at the end of every 20 or 30 paces I was obliged to rest till its sharpness was abated. My lungs with difficulty performed their office, and my heart was affected with violent palpitation. At last, however, but with a sort of apathy which scarcely admitted the sense of joy, we reached the summit of the mountain; when six of my guides, and with them my servant, threw themselves on their faces, and were immediately asleep. I envied them their repose; but my anxiety to obtain a good observation for the latitude subdued my wishes

wishes for indulgence. The time of my arrival was half an hour after ten; so that the hours which had elapsed from our departure from Chamouni were only $27\frac{1}{2}$, 10 of which we had passed in the hut. The summit of the hill is formed of snow, which spreads into a sort of plain which is much wider from E. to W. than from N. to S., and in its greatest width is perhaps 30 yards. The snow is every where hard, and in many places is covered with a sheet of ice. When the spectator begins to look round him from this elevated height, a confused impression of immensity is the first effect produced upon his mind; but the blue colour, deep almost to blackness, of the canopy above him soon arrests his attention. He next surveys the mountains; many of which, from the clearness of the air, are to his eye within a stone's throw from him; and even those of Lombardy (one of which appears of an altitude but little inferior to that of Mount Blanc) seem to approach his neighbourhood; while on the other side the vale of Chamouni glittering with the sunbeams is to the view directly below his feet, and affects his head with giddiness. On the other hand, all objects of which the distance is great, and the level low, are hid from his eye by the blue vapour which intervenes, and through which I could not discern the Lake of Geneva, though at the height of 15,700 English feet, which, according to M. de Saussure, was the level on which I stood: even the Mediterranean Sea must have been within the line of vision. The air was still; and the day so re-

markably fine, that I could not discover in any part of the heavens the appearance of a single cloud. As the time of the sun passing the meridian now approached, I prepared to take my observation. I had with me an admirable Hadley's sextant, and an artificial horizon, and I corrected the mean refraction of the sun's rays. Thus I was enabled to ascertain with accuracy that the latitude of the summit of Mount Blanc is $45^{\circ} 49' 59''$ North.

I now proceeded to such other observations as the few instruments which I had brought permitted me to make. At twelve o'clock the mercury in the thermometer stood at 38° in the shade; at Chamouni, at the same hour, it stood when in the shade at 78° . I tried the effect of a burning glass on paper, and on a piece of wood, which I had brought with me for the purpose, and found (contrary, I believe, to the generally received opinion) that its power was much greater than in the lower regions of the air. Having continued two hours on the summit of the mountain, I began my descent at half an hour after twelve. I found that, short as my absence had been, many new rents were opened, and that several of those which I had passed in my ascent were become considerably wider. In less than six hours we arrived at the hut in which we had slept the evening before, and should have proceeded much further down the mountain had we not been afraid of passing the Glaciere de la Côté at the close of the day, when the snow, from the effect of the sun-beams, was extremely rotten. Our evening's
repast

repast being finished, I was soon asleep; but in a few hours I was awakened with a tormenting pain in my face and eyes. My face was one continued blister, and my eyes I was unable to open; nor was I without apprehensions of losing my sight for ever, till my guides told me that if I had condescended to have taken their advice of wearing, as they did, a mask of black crape, the accident would not have befallen me, but that a few days would perfectly restore the use of my eyes. After I had bathed them with warm water for half an hour, I found to my great satisfaction that I could open them a little, on which I determined upon an instant departure, that I might cross the Glaciere de la Côté before the sun was sufficiently high for its beams to be strongly reflected from the snow. But unluckily the sun was already above the horizon; so that the pain of forcing open my eyes in the bright sunshine, in order to avoid the chasms, and other hazards of my way, rendered my return more irksome than my ascent. Fortunately one of the guides, soon after I had passed the glaciere, picked up in the snow a pair of green spectacles, which M. Bourrit had lost, and which gave me wonderful relief.

At eleven o'clock on Aug. 10, after an absence of 52 hours, of which 20 were passed in the hut, I returned again to the village of Chamouni. From the want of instruments (the scale of the barometers I had, being graduated no lower than 30 inches, which was not sufficiently extended) the observations I made were but few. Yet the effects which the air in

the heights I visited produced on the human body may not perhaps be considered as altogether uninteresting, nor will the proof I made of the power of the lens on the summit of Mount Blanc, if confirmed by future experiments, be regarded as of no account in the theories of light and heat. At any rate, the having determined the latitude of Mount Blanc may assist in some particulars the observations of such persons as shall visit it in future; and the knowledge which my journey has afforded, in addition to that which is furnished by M. de Saussure, may facilitate the ascent of those who, with proper instruments, may wish to make in that elevated level experiments in natural philosophy.

Notes of a Mineralogical Excursion to the Giant's Causeway. By the Rev. Dr. Grierson.

(From the same.)

I left Coleraine on the morning of Sept. 17, in company with a gentleman of that place, whose obligingness, intelligence, hospitality, and kindness, afforded me a most agreeable specimen of the Irish character; and proceeded to the Giant's Causeway. The day was charming; and it is not easy for me to express the gratification I felt, as we made our way through a fine and gently varied district, at the idea of having it in my power soon to contemplate in favourable circumstances one of the most stupendous and interesting natural phenomena that are any where to be seen. From Coleraine to the Causeway is eight miles

miles in a northerly direction, and I could observe no rock on our way but the trap formation. On crossing the river Bush at the village called Bushmills, the country begins gradually to rise, and we descry about two miles before us a ridge of considerable height, seeming to terminate quite abruptly on the other side. What we perceive is the land side of the precipice of the Giant's Causeway. It seems to have been a hill of basalt, with nearly perpendicular columnar concretions, cut in two, as it were, by a vertical section, and the half of the hill next the sea carried away. On getting in front of this precipice, which you do by a pass on the west side of it, a most stupendous scene presents itself. The precipice, extending for a mile or two along the shore, is in many places quite perpendicular, and often 350 and 400 feet high, consisting of pure columnar basalt, some of the columns 50 feet in perpendicular height, straight and smooth as if polished with a chisel. In other parts the columns are smaller, inclined, or bent; and a less length of them strikes the eye. From the bottom of this precipice issues, with a gentle slope of about 1 in 30 towards the sea, an immense and surprising pavement, as it were, consisting of the upper ends of the fragments of vertical columns of basalt that have been left when the seaward half of the basaltic hill was carried off. The ends of these columns are in general 15 or 20 inches in diameter, some of them of three sides, some four, five, six, seven, eight, or even nine. Five and six sides seem to prevail most. From the bottom

of the precipice to the sea at low water along this pavement or causeway, which, from the artificial appearance it puts on, has, doubtless, in a rude age, given name to the place, is a length of 730 feet. It has been observed to proceed into the ocean as far as can be traced by the eye in a calm and clear day. To any person who has seen both this place and Staffa, the idea naturally enough suggests itself that they are parts of the same once continuous immense bed of columnar basalt. There are properly three pavements proceeding into the sea, distinguished by the names of the Great Causeway, the Middle Causeway, and the West Causeway. These are three large gently sloping ridges of the ends of basaltic columns, with depressions between them, covered with large blocks or masses, that seem to have from time to time been detached, and rolled from the precipice. I had no opportunity of perceiving with what rocks the basalt of the Giant's Causeway is connected. I am told conchoidal white lime-stone meets it on both the east and west sides. There is in one place near the east side of the Great Causeway a green-stone vein eight or ten feet wide intersecting the basalt from north-west to south-east.

There was now pointed out to us by the guides a singular enough and curious phenomenon, and which is particularly interesting, as it has been thought by those who hold the igneous origin of basalt to be a confirmation of their doctrine. Nearly opposite to the West Causeway, and within about 80 feet of the top of the cliff, is
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found to exist a quantity of slags and ashes, unquestionably the production of fire. On ascending to this spot, which can be easily done, I found the slags and ashes deposited in a sort of bed about four feet thick, and running horizontally along the face of the basaltic precipice 20 or 30 feet. The ashes are in general observed to lie undermost, and the slags above them. They are covered with a considerable quantity of earth and stones, which all consist of basalt, are of a large size, some of them three or four feet or more in diameter, and the ashes likewise rest on the same sort of materials. What struck me here was, that these ashes and slags are entirely unconnected with any rock or formation which seems to be in situ, or in its original position. They are, therefore, in my opinion, distinctly artificial, and nothing more than the remains of some large and powerful fire which had been kept burning for a long while on the top of this precipice, either for the purpose of a signal, or some other which we cannot now ascertain; and that, owing to the part of the cliff on which the ashes were lying having given way and tumbled down, they have been thus buried beneath the ruins and there remain. This hypothesis may appear to some fanciful or extravagant, but I should have little hesitation in referring the truth of it to any unprejudiced person accustomed to investigations of this sort who will be at the trouble to scramble up and survey the spot. Nay, I think I could even trust the decision to a Huttonian himself! The mass of materials in which the slags and

ashes are found is clearly moved from its place, and has distinctly the appearance of a large slip of loose pieces of rock and soil that has been disengaged by means of frost or some other agent. It may have been effected by an earthquake: or the fire itself may have contributed to its own removal by the rents or cracks its heat made in the rock on which it stood. It is not a great many years since these ashes were noticed. John Corry, one of the most obliging and intelligent guides about the place, picked up some of them on the beach below, and naturally enough concluding that they came from the cliff above, he climbed up and found their repository. One gentleman, he informed us, who is well known to have paid much attention to the appearances at the Giant's Causeway, and who has written upon the subject, will not yet believe that the ashes are found in the place which I have described, but insists (obstinately enough, no doubt!) that honest John and his colleagues have put the ashes there on purpose to deceive the public! He cannot be prevailed upon to scramble up and look at the ashes himself, verifying, it would seem, the old proverb, which says, that there is no one blinder than he who will not see.

A considerable way from the repository of the ashes and slags, and to the east of the Great Causeway, is another curious appearance. Here, in the pure basalt, 70 or 80 feet from the top of the cliff, is a horizontal bed of wood coal eight feet thick. The coal to all appearance rests immediately on the basalt below, and the ends of perpendicular basaltic columns
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are seen distinctly to rest on it above. The basalt is not in the least changed by the contact of the coal, nor the coal by that of the basalt. The coal is very beautiful and distinct, and in one place is seen a coalified tree, if I may use the word, 10 or 12 inches in diameter, running directly in below the basalt.

Within sight of this spot, and about 300 yards to the east of it, are the beautifully conspicuous basaltic pillars, 45 feet long, and vertical, with the longest ones in the middle, and the others gradually shortening towards each side like the columns of an organ. From this appearance they have received the appropriate name of the organ. At the bottom of this cliff, by examining and breaking the loose columnar pieces of the rock that have fallen down, we found many fine specimens of calcedony, zeolite, and semi-opal. These occur in cavities in the basalt. Sometimes the cavity is not completely filled with the calcedony or opal; and when that is the case, the empty space is observed to be always the upper part of the cavity, while the rock is in situ. Moreover, the surface of the calcedony or opal next to the empty space is always found to be flat and horizontal, which would show that the substance must have been filtered into its situation in a fluid state, and afterwards consolidated.

Of Cinnamon as an article of Commerce. By H. Marshall, Esq. Staff Surgeon to the Forces in Ceylon.

(From the same.)

The earliest notice we have of

cinnamon is in Exod. xxx. 23. It is again mentioned in the Song of Solomon, iv. 14; and in Prov. vii. 17. Casia a synonyme of cinnamon is mentioned in Ezek. xxvii. 19, where it is enumerated among a large variety of articles of merchandise. As the ancients were supplied with cinnamon from Arabia, and the north and east coast of Africa, they without good foundation, supposed that this spice was the produce of those countries. There is much probability that from the earliest ages Europe has been indebted to Ceylon for part of its consumption of this article. It may have been exported from Ceylon by small vessels belonging to the island, or to the natives of the continent of India, to some of the emporia on the Malabar coast, and from thence to Sabea, on the south coast of Arabia, by the Arabs, who were the first who traded extensively on the Indian ocean. Here the ships belonging to the merchants of Phœnicia and Egypt found large stores of the produce of India; and by this medium the demands from all parts of Europe were supplied. Even in modern times the commodities of India were chiefly imported into Europe by the way of Egypt. The enormous expense incurred by transporting cinnamon such a circuitous route, and a great part of it by land, must have greatly enhanced its price, and prevented the use of it from becoming general.

On some occasions, however, the quantity expended appears to have been considerable. At the funeral of Sylla 210 burthens of spices were strewed upon the pile. It is probable that cinnamon formed a great part of the spices burned

burned on this occasion, as the produce of the Moluccas was then but little, if at all, known to the Romans. Nero is reported to have burned a quantity of cinnamon and casia at the funeral of Poppæa greater than the countries from which it was imported produced in one year.

In 1498 Vasco de Gama landed at Calicut. Indian commerce now took a different route, and the Portuguese supplied Europe with the articles which had formerly passed through the hands of the Venetians. Eager to engross the cinnamon trade, the Portuguese, early in the 16th century, arrived at Ceylon, and obtained leave from one of the chiefs to establish a factory, which led to the erection of the Fort of Colombo. Notwithstanding the permission of the chief, their landing was obstinately opposed by the Arab merchants, who had for many ages supplied Europe with cinnamon, and who dreaded an immediate termination of their monopoly. Shortly after a fort had been built, the Portuguese succeeded in concluding a treaty with the king of Kandy, wherein he agreed to furnish them annually with 124,000lb. of cinnamon: on the part of the Portuguese, it was stipulated that they were to assist the king and his successors, both by sea and land, against all his enemies.

The thriving and rich settlements of the Portuguese in the East Indies eventually attracted the attention of the adventurous and opulent merchants of the states of Holland. Soon after they had gained some footing in India, they became anxious to engross the cinnamon trade, which,

as Baldeus emphatically observes, is “the Helen or bride in contest of Ceylon;” and early in the 17th century found means to ingratiate themselves with the king of Kandy, who invited them to aid him to expel the Portuguese from the island.

In 1612 the king engaged to deliver to the Dutch East India Company all the cinnamon that he was able to collect.

In 1638 the garrison of Batticaloa was captured by the combined Dutch and Kandian forces. On this occasion a treaty was concluded between the king and the Dutch general, wherein it was stipulated that none of the king's subjects were to be permitted to sell the Dutch any cinnamon, &c. &c. except what was sold by his order. He retained the entire and exclusive privilege of preparing and selling this article of commerce.

Peace was concluded between the Portuguese and Dutch in 1644 or 1645. By this treaty a moiety of the cinnamon trade was ceded to the Dutch. The cinnamon was collected in the following manner:—Both parties employed chalias to cut and prepare cinnamon, which was to be deposited in a convenient spot upon the river Dandegam, near to Negombo. At the end of the cinnamon harvest, the quantity collected was equally divided between the two parties; and each party paid the usual price to the chalias for peeling their share of cinnamon. War again commenced in 1652. Colombo surrendered to the Dutch in 1656; and Jaffna, the last place of strength of the Portuguese, fell in 1658.

For many years previously to the entire surrender of Ceylon by the Portuguese, the Dutch had purchased and exported large investments of cinnamon from the Malabar coast. To obtain the exclusive commerce of this coast, they, in the year 1662 and 1663, wrested from the Portuguese the forts of Quilon, Cannanore, Cochin, and Cranganore.

The English merchants were desired to withdraw from this coast; and the natives were prohibited from supplying the English with produce under penalty of confiscation. The Dutch exerted all their influence and power to obstruct the peeling of cinnamon in the territories of the Malabar princes, except what was sold to themselves, for which they refused to advance the regular market price.

Notwithstanding a zealous perseverance, and a rigid exertion of their power, to prevent what they denominated smuggling on this coast, they did not succeed. Other nations, by paying nearly double for the articles they purchased, were readily supplied by the natives, even in opposition to the orders of their own princes. These fruitless attempts are stated to have been very expensive; which induced the Supreme Government to pass in 1697 a number of regulations. One of these regulations stated, "that it was determined not to obstruct any more, by measures of constraint and harshness, the navigation of the Malabars, and their trade in the productions of their country, consisting chiefly in areca, wild cinnamon, and pepper, which the Company could not exclusively purchase from them."

In 1687 the Dutch imported into Holland cinnamon to the amount of 170,000lb. This quantity is stated to have been less than the usual annual importation.

In 1730 they imported 640,000lb.

The Dutch continued to enjoy the exclusive commerce of this spice for many years. The means adopted for this end were well imagined, but not so correctly carried into effect. The correspondence between the Directors and the Supreme Government evince the care that was taken to "direct and command that no cinnamon should be exported but what was of an excellent quality." The Directors complain repeatedly that much of the cinnamon imported from Ceylon was of a bad quality. They enumerated the defects, and stated, in their letter bearing date September, 1768, that for several years it had been of such a bad quality that they had not dared to bring it to the sales, for fear of ruining the credit of the Ceylon cinnamon. On several occasions they returned a number of bales of "bad, ill-sorted cinnamon," that the Ceylon government might institute an inquiry respecting the causes why their commands were so much neglected. They complain much of the inspectors of cinnamon; and add, that they must either be very deficient in a knowledge of their duty, or extremely negligent. According to oral information, the chief cause of defective cinnamon having been exported was, that the requisitions from Holland were always for a larger quantity than they were able to procure of an excellent quality.

Before the Kandian war, which terminated in 1766, the Dutch annually

annually exported from Ceylon from 8,000 to 10,000 bales of cinnamon, each weighing 86 lb Dutch, or about $92\frac{1}{2}$ English. This war, which was very unfortunate for the King of Kandy, was extremely expensive to the Dutch. The chief advantage they obtained was the entire possession of the harbours and coasts round the island. By the treaty of peace agreed upon on this occasion it was stipulated that the Dutch were to be permitted to bark cinnamon in the king's territory to the westward of the Balany Kandy, which is a range of mountains that stretches nearly north and south, and is about 12 English miles west from Kandy. It was also stipulated that the king was to receive five pagodas per bale, or about 5*d.* per lb., for all that which his subjects barked and prepared in his country to the eastward of Balany Kandy. The cinnamon collected by the Dutch was estimated to cost them about this price. The cinnamon furnished, in consequence of this treaty, by the subjects of the King of Kandy, was of an inferior quality, being mixed with thick, coarse, and ill-prepared bark.

The Dutch accepted only of what they deemed of a good quality, and paid for the quantity they received. The Kandians considered this an unprofitable speculation, and soon ceased to furnish cinnamon of any quality. Posterior to the war of 1766 Ceylon did not export annually more than from 6,000 to 7,000 bales of cinnamon. This defalcation has been ascribed to the discouraging conduct of the King. It was not to be expected that he

should have entered cordially into a measure to which he had been forced to yield a reluctant acquiescence. So unwilling was the King of Kandy to extend the limits for cutting cinnamon, that he on one occasion refused 5,000 pagodas which were offered to him by the Dutch for permission to peel cinnamon for five months in a district to the eastward of Balany.

Stavorinus, who visited the Malabar coast in the years 1775 and 1778, says that an annual quantity of 1,000,000 lb. of cinnamon is said to be exported from this coast to the Gulf of Persia and to the Red Sea. A small quantity is likewise sent to Europe. This quantity is incredible.

Fra Paolino da San Bartolomeo had, from his long residence, profession, and studies, an infinitely better opportunity of learning the internal state of the country, as well as the export trade, than Stavorinus, who was only an occasional visitor. He arrived in India in 1776, where he resided 13 years. He tells us that the English purchased cinnamon from the king of Tranvancore, at the rate of about 80 rupees a candy, or about 500 lb, avoirdupois, which is nearly two fans per lb., and that Malabar supplied at least 500 candies, amounting to 250,000 lb. He adds, that "the Dutch do not wish the cinnamon to thrive, and extirpate the trees in Malabar wherever they find them, in order that their cinnamon which grows on Ceylon may not become of less value." The statements of the learned Carmelite appear in general to deserve belief, except relating to the subject of religion, and

and then his opinions and conduct seem to be at variance with his usual good sense.

Mr. Wilcocke, the translator of the voyages of Stavorinus, in his note to the work, says, that in 1778, 600,000 lb. of cinnamon were disposed of at the Europe sale, at about 11s. sterling per lb., being part of the imports from Ceylon. In an appendix to that work, he gives a statement of the quantities of cinnamon and cinnamon oil sold at the Dutch East India Company's sales from 1775 to 1779:—

Pounds of cinnamon in 1775, 400,000—1776, 400,000—1777, 400,000—1778, 350,000—1779, 300,000.

Ounces of oil of cinnamon, in 1775, 240—1776, 160—1777, 160—1778, 160—1779, 160.

Being an annual average of 370,000 lb., which, if sold at 11s. per lb. the rate stated above for the year 1778, amounts to 203,500*l*.

The encroachments of other nations into the cinnamon trade continued to give the Dutch great alarm. These encroachments, which were never regarded with indifference, had been making gradual, but steady, advances. A letter from the Dutch India Directors, addressed to the Supreme Government, bearing date Dec. 29, 1787, expressly states, that “We have great need of a considerable quantity of the best cinnamon to put a stop to the consumption of the Chinese, and the cinnamon imported by other nations; and by that circumstance, to occasion their not yielding a profit any longer, prevent their importation; and by these means ours will retain that general esti-

mation which alone can ensure its high price, and consequently our profit.” Their fears were too well grounded: the cinnamon importations into Holland gradually declined.

The following is an account of the cinnamon imported and sold at the Dutch India Company's sales from the years 1785 to 1791 inclusive, with the sale amount of each year:—

Years.	lb.	£.
1785 ..	309,040 ..	199,470
1786 ..	453,920 ..	280,605
1787 ..	144,000 ..	82,470
1788 ..	485,600 ..	273,765
1789 ..	463,400 ..	252,785
1790 ..	375,920 ..	205,045
1791 ..	183,765 ..	100,235

The average quantity imported into Holland in each year of the preceding period is 345,092 lb. and the average annual amount 199,195*l*. 8s. being about 11s. 6*d*. per lb.

This statement evinces that the exportation of cinnamon was on the decline: it still, however, retained its price. The rivalry of the China cinnamon trade, and the difficulties and impediments occasioned by the King of Kandy to the collecting of cinnamon in his territories, may be assigned as the chief causes of the diminution of the cinnamon commerce in Ceylon. The Kandian Court, although unsuccessful in the resistance it made against the Dutch, remained unconquered, and entertained a proud spirit of independence, a constant enmity, and deep resentment, against its invaders, for the many attempts they had made to humiliate and subdue its power. The misfortunes of

both parties occasionally led to a cessation of hostilities, sometimes to mutual concessions, but never to amity.

To check the rivalry of the Chinese cinnamon, and to render themselves independent of the King of Kandy, the Dutch adopted means which experience has evinced to have been extremely prudent

The plan they adopted was the cultivation of cinnamon in their own country. Cinnamon began to be cultivated in very small quantity on Ceylon about the year 1765; the propriety and necessity of the measure became more evident; and succeeding circumstances rendered it more and more imperious to extend the cultivation by all the means of which they were in possession. Dr. Thunberg, who visited Ceylon in 1778, informs us, that "by the unwearyed exertions of governor Falck, exceedingly large plantations of cinnamon had been formed, and that the shoots of some of the plantations had been already three times barked." He particularly mentions large plantations of cinnamon being cultivated at Sitawake, a place situated near to the Kandian border, and about thirty miles from Colombo, at Grandpass, Merendahu, Matura, and Caltura.

Governor Falck died in February, 1785; and was succeeded in the colonial government by W. J. Vande Graaf, a zealous promoter of the cultivation of cinnamon. He prosecuted governor Falck's undertaking with zeal, judgment and perseverance. The district or portion of the belt of territory possessed by the Dutch,

which affords good cinnamon, is bounded on the north by the Reymel river, a few miles to the northward of Negombo, and on the east by the river Wallaway, near Hambantotte. Beyond these boundaries few cinnamon plants grow; and their bark, when prepared, is not only deficient in the cinnamon odour and flavour, but sometimes bitterish, and unpleasantly tasted. Between these two rivers, but particularly between Negombo and Matura, many extensive fields were cleared, and planted with cinnamon. This must have been a work of infinite labour.

In Ceylon, trees and low brushwood rise with great rapidity, and cover the ground with a dense luxuriance of wood and foliage which is unequalled, except in the richest of the tropical islands. The business appears to have been entered upon with spirit, zealously prosecuted, and conducted with economy.

The labour of clearing and planting the government plantations was performed chiefly by the native Cingalese, as personal service. By exciting a rivalry among the native headmen, liberally feeding their vanity with praise, and sometimes conferring high-sounding titles upon a few of them, and occasionally bestowing upon some of the most active a gold chain, a medal, or a silver hilted hanger, the labour seems to have, on their part, been executed with some degree of alacrity. Permanent situations, with a small monthly salary, were given to some of the headmen, who cultivated cinnamon extensively. Many spots of ground were planted,

planted, particularly in the Aloet Roer Corle, near to Negombo, by granting lands to the natives, who bound themselves and their heirs to plant one-third of the lands with cinnamon, and to guard the plants from being overgrown with brushwood, or destroyed by cattle. For every pingo (60 lb.) of good cinnamon produced on these plantations the owner was allowed two rix dollars (about 3s. 6d. sterling.) The shoots were cut, and the bark prepared, by the government peelers.

Severe penalties were inflicted upon persons cutting, or otherwise destroying, cinnamon plants. On conviction, the culprit was severely fined, sentenced to hard labour in chains for a period of years, or banished to the Cape of Good Hope for a term of 25 years. These laws are still in force.

Political altercations between the Colonial Government and the Court of Kandy occurred in 1782, and also in 1792. During these altercations the peeling of cinnamon in the King's territory was greatly interrupted. These interruptions appear to have constantly increased; for we find that, on March 26, 1793, a letter was addressed to the King of Kandy, by order of Governor Vande Graaf, "to inquire if, although no embassy was sent, the King would allow cinnamon to be peeled in his territories." The King's letter in reply stated, "that the peeling of cinnamon in his territories was usually allowed when the Company's ambassadors asked for leave to do it; and that it was in this, and in no other manner, that it could be done."

The Governor declined sending

an ambassador on this occasion, and avows that he entertained fears that leave would not have been granted, and was afraid to risk the chance of a refusal, which might have prejudiced the respectability of the Company. It appears, however, to have been customary to send annually a messenger to the King of Kandy to request permission to cut cinnamon in his territory. To render this petition apparently less supplicatory and degrading, they dignified the bearer with the title of Ambassador, and used, after the treaty of 1766, to make a voluntary offer to the King of Kandy of leave for his subjects to collect salt in the neighbourhood of Chilam and Putlam, as an equivalent for his permission to cut cinnamon. This proposal was generally received by his Kandian Majesty with strong marks of disdain and indignation: on one occasion his reply was, "My subjects shall continue to collect salt on the coast as usual; and you have my permission to cut cinnamon as formerly." These embassies were expensive, and the ambassadors necessitated to submit to the most degrading and humiliating formalities. By the treaty of 1766, the ceremony of kneeling before his Majesty by the Dutch ambassadors was to be dispensed with. Subsequent events rendered it expedient for the Dutch to yield to the renewed request of the king of Kandy to comply with the ancient usages of his court. Neither the expense attending the embassies, nor the indignities offered to the ambassadors, or even the violation of right, would have alone or conjointly operated successfully

cessfully in preventing the customary annual message. The chief cause was, that the Kandian court received all the embassies and presents as a homage due to their monarch, who conducted himself with such an overbearing, haughty demeanour, even while the ambassadors were performing the degrading and abject ceremonies, which inveterate custom had rendered indispensably requisite to approach his presence, that the colonial government became alarmed less the native Cingalese should suppose that they were dependant upon the Kandian court; in fine, that they would entertain the same opinion as the king did himself.

By the year 1793, governor Vande Graaf's exertions in extending the propagation of the cinnamon plant had so far succeeded, that he was enabled to furnish the annual investment from the territory of the company, including the plantations. In a memorial addressed to Gerard Van Angelbeek, his successor, bearing date July 15, 1794, he congratulates him that in future they would not be under the necessity of flattering the court of Kandy any longer.

G. Van Angelbeek's government was short, but destructive to the labours of the two preceding governors in the cultivation of cinnamon. During his government little care was taken to defend it from cattle, or to prevent the plants from being overgrown with creepers and underwood.

Ceylon was reduced by a British force in February, 1796. The cinnamon found in the storehouses was sold by the captors to the

English East India Company for 180,000*l*. I have not been able to ascertain the number of bales captured by the army. In the latter end of 1797 the quantity of 13,893 bales was brought to England.

Mr. North assumed the government of Ceylon in October, 1798, but was under the control of the governor-general in India until the year 1802.

The English company, like the Dutch, engrossed the exclusive privilege of trading in Ceylon cinnamon: the natives of Ceylon, and all other persons, were debarred from the smallest participation in the commerce of this article. In December, 1798, a regulation was issued by the president in council, Fort St. George, directing that every ship, &c. on board which a quantity of cinnamon above 20*lb*. might be found, without authority from government, should be confiscated, with all her cargo; and that for every pound of cinnamon, the quantity being less than 20*lb*., a penalty of 50 star pagodas shall be paid. This prohibition continues in force.

The same year a number of chalias were sent to the Malabar coast by the Ceylon government to bark and prepare casia. On proceeding to the forests, they discovered the cinnamon-tree growing in great abundance, which they divided into the fanciful sorts, or varieties, that they had been accustomed to do with the cinnamon produced in their own island. Specimens of the prepared bark were forwarded to Ceylon for the inspection of governor North. Mr. Brown, the agent of the East India Company
on

on the Malabar coast, considered this a most important discovery. I have not learned that any notice was taken of Mr. Brown's report.

In 1799 the Company exported from Ceylon 5642 bales.

During the same year Mr. Jonville, a French gentleman, who held an appointment in the cinnamon department, addressed a memorial to governor North, wherein he sets forth that he had discovered that a cinnamon plant, when well taken care of, ought to produce 23 oz. of cinnamon every second year; whereas those at present in the Marandhan produce, in the same space of time, no more than four-tenths of an ounce per tree. These comparative calculations appear to have been made in a very unequal manner. The first is most probably the amount of the produce of a choice plant, or bush: the second is admitted to be the average produce of each plant in the plantation. No allowance is made for bad soil, although there are many spots in the Marandhan so steril, or otherwise ill adapted for the cultivation of cinnamon, that the plants barely live, become stunted, and never afford cinnamon of a quality fit for the Company's investment.

Governor North, whose desire to promote and to engross the monopoly of the cinnamon trade appears to have been ardent, was evidently much influenced by the misrepresentations and sophistical arguments of M. Jonville. In 1799 he addressed an elaborate memoir respecting the cultivation and trade of Ceylon cinnamon to the Governor-general in council.

In this memoir we find that he had three grand objects in view: first, to obtain a sufficient quantity of cinnamon annually; secondly, at a cheap rate; and, thirdly, to preserve entire the Company's monopoly of this article. The annual consumption of cinnamon throughout the world he estimated at 5200 bales. In suggesting the means of obtaining this quantity he enters into an elaborate calculation, founded on the statements of M. Jonville, to ascertain how much cinnamon the Marandhan plantation could be made annually to produce. The conclusion he draws is, that this plantation alone would yield annually 13,618 bales. In prosecuting this subject, he strongly and precipitately recommends the immediate grubbing up of the cinnamon plants in the Kaderane plantation, and in the innumerable small plantations which were found in the private property of individuals, and eventually the plantations of Ekele and Morotto. The enormous, exaggerated estimation of the eventual produce of the Marandhan plantation, consequential to an improved mode of cultivation, led to unfortunate results, and afford a strong instance of the propriety of much caution being used before a mere speculative theory should be adopted.

Among the causes which induced Governor North to recommend the uprooting of the cinnamon growing in the plantation of Ekele and Morotto, he mentions their proximity to the sea. His imaginary fears respecting smuggling contributed greatly to his enter-

entertaining an opinion that the cinnamon produced in these plantations might be cut, and exported in a contraband manner. In this memoir the annual expense incurred on account of the cinnamon department is estimated at pagodas 30,409 29 52.

It does not appear that Governor North's suggestions were much attended to, or that his recommendations were adopted by the governor in council. The cinnamon was permitted to remain in the plantations which were recommended to be grubbed up, and the Marandhan continued to be cultivated, but with no extraordinary care. The discordant opinions of Governor North and M. Jonville probably contributed to prevent the immediate adoption of any important measure.

In September, 1800, we find M. Jonville, in a memorial addressed to the Governor, strongly recommending the rooting up of all the cinnamon plants, not only in the plantations of Ekele and Morotto, but even in that of the Marandhan, and suggesting the propriety of cultivating the Kaderrane plantation alone, which he deems adequate to furnish the usual annual investment.

By the treaty of Amiens, concluded in March, 1802, the Batavian Republic ceded to his Britannic Majesty all their possessions in the island of Ceylon which belonged before the war to the United Provinces. His Majesty's ministers, deeming it prudent to permit the company to continue to enjoy the monopoly of the Ceylon cinnamon trade, entered into an agreement with the directors, which

agreement stipulated that the Ceylon government should furnish to the agent of the company, who was to reside at Colombo, 400,000lb. of cinnamon, or about 4,324 bales of 92½ lb. each; for which they engaged to pay at the rate of 3s. sterling per lb. What cinnamon happened to be collected beyond this quantity was to be burned; and the company agreed that whenever the cinnamon furnished was disposed of at a higher rate than to afford five per cent. profit, after defraying all expenses, the surplus was to be placed to the credit of the Ceylon government. The company was to be allowed five per cent. upon the value of all cinnamon sold by the Ceylon government for the supply of the markets in India, but none was to be disposed of in India at a rate lower than 5s. per lb. This agreement was concluded for the year 1802; and I am not aware that any very material alteration in the terms of the contract has since been adopted.

The dispatch which announced to the Ceylon government the conclusion of this agreement recommended that the cinnamon plantations should be limited, so as not to produce, one year with another, a quantity larger than that contracted for by the committee; and should the island be able to afford a surplus quantity, the minister recommended that a part of the cinnamon plantations should be converted into cocoa-nut gardens; and where the soil would permit, into rice grounds. This recommendation appears to have been made in consequence of an erroneous opinion respecting the

the ease with which cinnamon could be collected, and the facility with which it might be cultivated. It is impossible to say how far governor North's memoir contributed to the minister's mistake.

The contracting parties, eager to retain the monopoly, and apparently ignorant that cinnamon was produced in many other parts of the world, as well as Ceylon, adopted the most effectual means to frustrate their own views, by limiting the cultivation of cinnamon, and by restricting its exportation considerably within the annual consumption of the inhabitants of the whole world. By these restrictive measures, a premium was offered to the rice merchants of other countries to endeavour to procure cinnamon at a cheap rate, and consequently to undersell the Ceylon cinnamon. The Ceylon government appears to have entertained serious alarms that the market would be overstocked with cinnamon the produce of Ceylon; and, anxious to prevent a reduction of the price of the article, adopted a most extraordinary measure, which was to employ workmen to root up the cinnamon in many of the plantations.

On Feb. 19, 1802, the chief-secretary to government addressed a letter (from which the following is an extract) to the President of the Board of Revenue and Commerce.

"It being the intention of his excellency the governor that all the cinnamon gardens belonging to government, except those of the Marandhan, Kaderane, Mo-

rotto, and Ekele, should be disposed of, his excellency requests that you would give directions to the agents of revenue and commerce in whose districts there are any cinnamon gardens, to advertise that they will be sold by public outcry on the first of May next: the purchasers to bind themselves to root out all the cinnamon trees; and destroy them; and all such trees belonging to private persons must likewise be destroyed."

This measure induced the rooting up the cinnamon in many of the plantations. In all those which were doomed to destruction the plants were entirely neglected, and allowed to be overgrown with creepers and brushwood, or browsed upon by cattle. No unusual activity was exerted to promote the cultivation of the four undestroyed plantations. Fortunately, however, the business of uprooting the plants was a work of great labour; and the purchasers of a number of the plantations failed to perform their agreement to its completion. Notwithstanding the unforeseen aid of these plantations, the usual investments became greatly reduced, and were obtained with infinite labour.

In July, 1805, General Maitland assumed the government of Ceylon. One of the first acts of his government was to arrest the progress of the despoliation of the cinnamon plantations. He readily saw the propriety of encouraging and increasing the cultivation of cinnamon, and adopted means which have been followed with great success. During his government the annual investments continued gradually to increase, and

many

many hundred acres of new ground were planted.. Less dependance was now placed on the supply from the Kandian territory, which was always uncertain, and subject to many impediments. His successor has, with unabated zeal, prosecuted the same policy : he has been particularly attentive to improve the situation of the

caste of people employed in its cultivation and preparation.

The following is an account of the quantities of cinnamon belonging to the East India Company sold at their sales in the years 1803 to 1810 inclusive, with the sale amount thereof ; likewise the quantities retained for home consumption :—

Year.	Quantity sold.	Amount.	Retained for Home Consumption.
1803 . . .	287,267 lb. . . .	63,504 <i>l.</i>	8,762 lb.
1804 . . .	357,683	78,659	9,830
1805 . . .	200,962	52,565	6,672
1806 . . .	261,196	61,216	10,389
1807 . . .	366,746	116,501	7,947
1808 . . .	334,631	114,974	13,116
1809 . . .	433,624	153,626	10,267
1810 . . .	303,954	125,558	11,564

being, on an average of eight years, 318,258 lb. ; and the sale amount 95,825*l.* per annum, or about 6*s.* per lb. The small quantity retained for home consumption is not included in this calculation.

This statement, when compared with the account of the cinnamon imported and sold at the Dutch East India Company's sales in the years 1785 to 1791 inclusive, proves that the annual quantity of cinnamon imported from Ceylon was considerably reduced, and that the price was diminished to nearly one-half the sum for which it was sold by the Dutch. The large importations of cinnamon which have, under the denomination of casia, for some time past been exported from Canton into Great Britain, America, as well as the British settlements in India, are the chief apparent causes of the diminished demand for Ceylon

cinnamon, as well as of its reduced price.

I have not been able to discover a good reason for supposing that this traffic is of long standing. The Dutch about the year 1787 began to apprehend a formidable rivalship in the monopoly of the cinnamon trade from the Chinese. As the exportation of cinnamon from Canton has increased, the demand from that produced on Ceylon has been on the decay, and the price reduced. The cinnamon exported from Canton, although in general of an inferior quality, can be purchased at a comparatively low rate, and may be sold, even with a large profit, far under the Ceylon cinnamon.

The following are the quantities of casia imported and sold at the company's sales from 1804 to 1808 inclusive, with the sale amount and average price :—

Year.	Cwt.		Average price per cwt.
1804 . .	1,507 . .	17,433 <i>l.</i> . .	11 <i>l.</i> 11 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
1805 . .	4,282 . .	48,002 . .	10 0 10
1806 . .	1,588 . .	7,881 . .	4 19 4
1807 . .	911 . .	3,781 . .	4 3 0
1808 . .	381 . .	3,891 . .	10 4 5

The greater part of these quantities of casia came from China.

Under the denomination of casia buds, the following quantities of the receptacle of the cinnamon

berry were imported and sold at the East India Company's sales in the years 1804 to 1808 inclusive, together with the sale amount, and average price per cwt. :—

Year.	Cwt.		Average price per cwt.
1804 . .	678 . .	4,783 <i>l.</i> . .	7 <i>l.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>
1805 . .	520 . .	4,200 . .	8 1 6
1806 . .	292 . .	1,737 . .	5 18 11
1807 . .	0 . .	0 . .	0 0 0
1808 . .	54 . .	628 . .	11 9 0

China exported in the year 1805 into the British settlements in India the product of the

cinnamon plants, under the denomination of casia and casia buds, to the value of 72,670 rupees :—

Calcutta imported to the value of rupees .	19,134
Bombay	51,190
Madras	2,346

Some part of this casia was exported from Calcutta to London. Bombay supplies the market of Massuah, Judda, Aden, Bushin, &c. and a great part of the consumption of this article in the Arabian Gulph.

In 1810 and 1811 China exported from Canton in country ships to the British settlements casia to the amount of 3019 piculs, or 401,527 lb. : in regular ships, 6 peculs 998 lb. In the same season were exported from Canton, in American ships, 1604 peculs, or 199,977 lb.

This quantity of casia is im-

ported into Canton from the Sooloo, Archipelago, and other islands in these seas, and the different ports of Cochin China. We have no good authority for believing that any of it is produced in China.

The following is a statement of the quantity of cinnamon prepared in Ceylon, the quantity rejected on inspection, and the number of pounds exported annually on account of the East India Company, from the year 1804 to 1814 inclusive, with the annual expense of the cinnamon department from 1807 to 1814 inclusive :—

Year.	Quantity prepared.	Quantity rejected.	Quantity exported.	Annual Expense.			
	lb.	lb.	lb.				
1804	318,251	70,536	247,715				
1805	258,144	21,159	236,985				
1806	399,171	13,816	385,355	Rix-Dollars.	£.	s.	d.
1807	447,453	72,828	374,625	122,270. . . .	13,042	2	8
1808	465,541	52,251	413,219	132,021. . . .	14,082	4	10
1809	522,358	208,783	313,575	155,845. . . .	16,623	9	4
1810	422,928	12,690	410,237	130,728. . . .	13,944	6	5
1811	407,803	36,303	371,480	135,397. . . .	14,444	6	11
1812	454,562	31,189	423,373	145,443. . . .	15,513	18	5
1813	318,184	43,922	274,262	179,978. . . .	15,748	8	2
1814	404,417	17,952	386,465	157,771. . . .	13,387	9	3

This statement shows that the average annual exportation of cinnamon on account of the company, from the year 1804 to 1806 inclusive, amounts to 290,018 lb.; and that from the year 1807 to 1814 inclusive it amounts to 370,913 lb., and the annual expense for this period to 14,223*l.* or about 9*d.* per lb.

For a number of years included in this period the premium upon bills drawn upon the company on account of the investment cannot be estimated at less than 30 per cent. This premium is evidently amply adequate to liquidate the expense incurred annually by government on account of the cultivation and preparation of cinnamon.

In 1804 a considerable quantity of oil was distilled from the rejected cinnamon: the quantity I have not been able to ascertain.

The Ceylon government has for a number of years annually disposed of part of the rejected cinnamon to private merchants, and generally at about 2*s.* per lb. The

merchants purchase it with the avowed purpose of supplying the Indian markets: great part of it, however, eventually reaches England under the denomination of casia.

Cinnamon oil to the amount of about 3,000 oz. has within these few months been prepared; a part of which has been forwarded to England.

By the foregoing statement, it will appear that the Ceylon government gain very considerably by the cultivation and preparation of cinnamon. Cinnamon being a staple commodity on Ceylon and the Malabar coast, and as these situations possess many peculiar and natural advantages for extending the commerce in this article of trade, it appears to be a great want of foresight or industry to look with an eye of indifference upon the rapidly increasing trade of China in cinnamon. The cultivation of cinnamon might be carried to any extent on Ceylon, and with every prospect of profit.

The cheapness of labour, in consequence

sequence of the degree of servitude under which the chalias are held, and the universal prepossession in favour of the Ceylon cinnamon, are peculiar and powerful advantages, which, if judiciously improved, may greatly contribute to repress the China cinnamon trade, and to make it a profitable enterprise for the possessors of Ceylon.

Captain Melborn mentions a circumstance which renders it almost unaccountable why the Malabar cinnamon is not a more powerful rival to the China trade in this article. He tells us that the Canton price current of casia in 1809 and 1810 was 20 Spanish dollars per pecul, or about 9*d.* per lb.; and that casia is exported from Mangalore at from eight to nine pagodas per candy, or about 2*d.* per lb.

In addition to the China cinnamon trade, we may now expect to have to combat with the Dutch in the commerce of this article. This people are intimately acquainted with the spice trade, and particularly with that of cinnamon. The enterprising and persevering character of the Dutch is proverbially known; and the possessors of Java have powerful means in their hands; so that we have no mean antagonist to oppose. Batavia may become the depôt of the cinnamon produced in Sumatra, the extensive island of Borneo, the Philippine and Sooloo islands; and should these islands not afford a sufficient quantity to supply all demands, cinnamon can be furnished to a very great extent from Tonquin and Cochin China. The English at one time cut consider-

able quantities of cinnamon in Sumatra, and had chalias, whom they enticed from Ceylon, to prepare the bark. The quality of the cinnamon prepared by these people is stated to be equal to the finest in Ceylon. The Dutch, even when they had possession of the coasts of Ceylon, purchased the cinnamon produced in Sumatra, which they exported to foreign countries as Ceylon cinnamon.

To rival the excellence of the cultivated cinnamon of Ceylon, the Dutch will, in all probability, adopt measures for cultivating it in the island of Java, or in some of its immediate dependencies. A productive cultivation must be a work of time; and a period of 20 years will elapse before their exertions in cultivating cinnamon can greatly interfere with our present monopoly of that of the finest quality, for which we are chiefly indebted to the unwearied and judicious exertions of the Dutch.

It is very evident that our interest strongly points out that we should exert the powerful means which circumstances have placed in our power to cultivate, collect, and export, a greatly increased quantity of cinnamon, with the view of supplying the markets of both Europe and America; so as to render the trade less immediately profitable to our rivals, and less encouraging for them to attempt eventually to monopolize the commerce of this very important article.

This plan is evidently more laudable, and promises to be as successful as measures of restraint. The conduct of the Dutch in their attempts

attempts to preserve the monopoly of the clove and nutmeg trade should be regarded as a beacon to prevent us from splitting upon the same rock. They were anxious to engross the trade in these articles ; it is our interest, exclusive of the produce of our own settlements, to reduce the cinnamon annually exported. They discovered that cloves and nutmegs were not confined to the islands and establishment which owned their sway. We know that, although Ceylon produces cinnamon of a quality unequalled, yet we also know that the plant abounds in the eastern islands, and that they afford large quantities of a secondary quality. We have also strong reasons to believe that these islands would afford cinnamon which would rival the finest on Ceylon, were an equal attention extended to its culture and preparation.

The Dutch used every means in their power to limit the produce and diminish the exportation of cloves and nutmegs. This was done to increase the value of these articles. These restrictive measures led to smuggling the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs in different countries, and to voyages to ascertain whether they grew in islands and situations which had not been sufficiently explored.

We, on the other hand, have not collected and exported all the cinnamon which we might have done ; and in so far as we have from inattention or indifference, omitted to supply the demands of Europe and America with Ceylon cinnamon, this neglect has contributed to encourage the impor-

tation of cinnamon from China, which is now very generally substituted for the finest Ceylon cinnamon.

The means adopted by the Dutch to obtain the exclusive trade in cloves and nutmegs are worthy of attention, because, from the similarity of our prospects, their failure may teach us to avoid the same ineffectual or hurtful measures, and perhaps open our eyes to a more liberal, and not improbably to a more efficient and advantageous policy. Shortly after they had established themselves in the Moluccas, they attempted to confine the growth of the clove trees to the islands of Amboina, Honimoa, Oma, and Noussalant ; and the nutmeg tree to the island of Banda. To carry their intentions into effect, they employed extirpators to destroy the clove and nutmeg trees that grew in the neighbouring islands which owned their sway ; and they paid an annual tribute to the kings of Ternate, Tidore, and Bontoe, to permit and assist the extirpators to destroy the trees which abounded in the Archipelago, of which they were masters. When the crop of cloves and nutmegs was abundant, they burned large quantities, sometimes in the islands where they were produced, and sometimes after they had been landed in Holland. The contraband trade between the spice islands and the large island of Celebes they never could prevent. The English had generally an establishment, either on the main land of Borneo, or some of its dependencies ; by which means they were always readily supplied by the natives with whatever spices they required,

required, as they paid a higher price for them than the Dutch.

Captain Forrest ascertained that the nutmeg tree grew in New Guinea, and transplanted a number of plants to the Philippine islands. The French have succeeded in introducing the clove and nutmeg trees into the isles of France and Bourbon. They have likewise introduced them into Guiana and Cayenne. In the year 1785 there were 10,416 clove trees on the Isle of France. The English also have cultivated the clove tree in the West India islands. Martinico in the year 1797 imported into London 380 lb. and the year following 200 lb.; St. Kitt's, 2981 lb. The extreme cupidity of the Dutch eventually ruined their own prospects. Had they been contented with moderate profits, the incitement to a contraband trade would have been much diminished, and foreign nations would have had fewer incentives to incur much expense and labour in cultivating spices in their own establishments. Our situation with regard to the cinnamon trade is in many respects similar to that of the Dutch in the commerce of cloves and nutmegs: we have too long gazed with a frigid indifference upon the rapidly increasing cinnamon trade of the Chinese, and treated with contempt their commerce in this article. Should it not rather have excited us to adopt effectual means to supply the demands of the western world from our own establishments? Even admitting that the cinnamon exported from China is inferior to the produce of Ceylon, its quality however is such as to serve as a substitute, and may

eventually rival the best we can produce. The third quality of the Ceylon cinnamon is by many considered equal, if not superior, to that brought from China, and could in all probability be supplied at as low, if not a lower, price. This quality of cinnamon might in Ceylon be collected to an almost unlimited quantity. A large importation of this sort into the London market, and sold at a moderate profit, would in all probability soon lessen the demand for that imported from China.

By the London price current of Jan. 10, 1815, we find the different qualities of cinnamon quoted at from 8s. 3d. per lb. to 13s. 3d. The finest quality is becoming lower in price. In the same price current casia is quoted at from 40*l.* to 45*l.* per cwt. or from about 7s. to 8s. per lb. Inferring that the third sort of Ceylon cinnamon is of as good a quality, and will fetch as high a price as the Chinese cinnamon, the purchasers of the rejected Ceylon cinnamon must have found a good market, and have at least lately made a profitable speculation. Cinnamon oil is quoted at from 25s. to 26s. per oz. To procure an ounce of cinnamon oil about 11 lb. of cinnamon are required. While the oil fetches this price only, the Ceylon government cannot, considering the expenses incurred, realise much more than 1s. 6d. per lb. for the cinnamon used in distillation; and it will evidently appear that when 2s. per lb. can be obtained, there is in general very little encouragement to expend much cinnamon in making oil.

The most certain, and undoubtedly

edly the most avowable means of acquiring or preserving a monopoly of an article of commerce is to furnish it in abundance, at a comparatively cheap rate. The exportation of the third quality of cinnamon would very considerably contribute to this desirable end. Great part of the small quantity which has been exported has found its way into Europe and America under the denomination of casia. The duty levied upon that which has in trade been styled casia, should be the same as is levied upon cinnamon; or the duty upon the third quality of cinnamon should be reduced to that which is paid upon the importation of the casia of commerce. The exportation of cinnamon of this quality to England would at any time have been of importance to the trade of Ceylon; but in consequence of the recent entire subjugation of the interior of the islands, this measure becomes of infinitely greater consequence. By the fortunate termination of the Kandian war, the sources and opportunities for collecting and preparing cinnamon are greatly increased. The enlarged quantity procurable will, however, be chiefly of the third sort; and without some means be adopted for collecting and exporting this quality of cinnamon, it will appear like neglecting one of the many advantages which promise to follow this very important acquisition. With the exception of the narrow indented valleys which intersect the hills and mountains, great part of the interior of Ceylon is covered with lofty trees and low brushwood in the most luxuriant degree of vegetation. The most

rugged and difficultly accessible mountains and situations abound more with large trees than those hills or eminences whose declivity is more gradual, and whose surface is more even. This arises chiefly from the chena or dry grain cultivation, which is much practised upon the most accessible of the hills in the interior. Chenas are cultivated by cutting down a number of the large trees and all the brushwood upon the declivity or top of a hill. The trunks and branches of the large trees and the shrubby bushes are burned, and the ashes spread upon the ground, which is eventually sown with dry grain. The roots of the trees and bushes are allowed to remain. One crop only is reaped. The spot of partially cleared ground becomes in a few years covered with underwood and young trees. The space of from 15 to 20 years elapses generally before the ground is again cleared, and another crop sown. This statement will readily account for a circumstance confirmed by the chalias, that on the rugged and difficultly accessible hills large cinnamon trees, which afford cinnamon of coarse quality, are found, and that cinnamon plants of an age well adapted for yielding fine cinnamon are obtained upon the recently cultivated chenass. These patches of high ground cultivation form, however, but a small proportion, when compared to the uncultivated and uncultivable, rugged, and precipitous mountains, with which the interior of the island abounds. It may likewise be mentioned that the cinnamon plant is less hardy than many of those which grow in the same jungle with it; and that
when

when its shoots are cut, and the young scions only permitted to remain, the plant becomes less, and less able to resist the encroachments of the surrounding underwood, by which means it not unfrequently becomes choaked and overgrown.

Another, and not an unimportant concern, demands the attention of government—the collection and preparation of the receptacle of the embryo seed of the cinnamon plant, the casia bud of commerce. The full grown trees of the interior will afford them in great abundance. They are frequently substituted for the more expensive cinnamon, and fetch a good price.

The collection of them in Ceylon might be extensive, and effected at a very small expense. Labour, which is all that is required, is cheap. They could be collected by boys: and the drying, sorting, &c. of them might be entrusted to females. We might soon be able to rival the Chinese monopoly of this article. The Dutch, however eager they were to extend the exportation of colonial produce, seem to have entirely neglected the preparation of this important article of trade. Indeed I have not been able to learn that they were aware of the fact that casia buds are the produce of the cinnamon plant. The native headmen now employed in the cinnamon department, and who were in the same situation under the Dutch, express their entire ignorance of the circumstance.

In the London New Price Current of Jan. 10, 1815, casia buds are quoted at from 32*l.* to 37*l.* per cwt. or from about 5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per lb. The profit upon this ar-

ticle might be considerable. The more carefully and extensively we consider the subject, we shall, I think, be the more convinced that we must trust chiefly to the plantations for cinnamon of the finest quality, and that notwithstanding the recent important acquisition of the interior of the island, we should prosecute the cultivation of cinnamon with unabated zeal and perseverance.

ON THE GREENLAND OR POLAR ICE.

By W. Scoresby, jun. M.W.S.

[From Memoirs of the Wernerian Natural History Society.]

Greenland is a country where every object is strikingly singular, or highly magnificent. The atmosphere, the land, and the ocean, each exhibit remarkable or sublime appearances.

With regard to the atmosphere, several peculiarities may be noticed, viz. its darkness of colour and density; its frequent production of crystallised snow in a wonderful perfection and variety of form and texture; and its astonishing sudden changes from calm to storm,—from fair weather to foul, and vice versâ.

The land is of itself a sublime object; its stupendous mountains rising by steep acclivities from the very margin of the ocean to an immense height, terminating in ridged, conical, or pyramidal summits; its surface, contrasting its native protruding dark-coloured rocks, with its burthen of purest snow; the whole viewed under the density of a gloomy sky, forms a picture impressive and grand. Its most remarkable inhabitant is the White or Polar Bear, which

indeed also occurs on the ice. This ferocious animal seems to be the natural lord of those regions. He preys indiscriminately on quadruped, fowl, reptile, and fish; all behold him with dread, and flee his presence. The seals signify their fear of him by their constant watching, and betake themselves precipitately to the water on his approach. Carrion, therefore, (of which the carcase of the whale is at a certain season the most plentiful), affords him a passive, sure, and favourite food. His sense of smelling is peculiarly acute: in his march, he is frequently observed to face the breeze, to rear his head, and snuff the passing scent, whereby he can discover the nearest route to his odorous banquet, though the distance be incredibly great.

The water of the ocean is not the least interesting of the elements, particularly as affording the bed, and partly the materials for the most prodigious masses of ice. Its colour is peculiar. Its products are numerous, and of particular importance. It is here that the huge *Mysticetus*, or Whalebone Whale, takes up his residence, and collects his food;—it is here that he sports and astonishes, by his vast bulk and proportionate strength;—and it is here that he becomes the object of maritime adventure, and a source of commercial riches.

Ice, an interesting production.

Of the inanimate productions of Greenland, none perhaps excites so much interest and astonishment in a stranger, as the ice in its great abundance and variety. The

stupendous masses, known by the name of Ice-Islands, Floating-Mountains, or Icebergs, common to Davis' Straits and sometimes met with here, from their height, various forms, and the depth of water in which they ground, are calculated to strike the beholder with wonder: yet the fields of ice, more peculiar to Greenland, are not less astonishing. Their deficiency in elevation is sufficiently compensated by their amazing extent of surface. Some of them have been observed near a hundred miles in length, and more than half that breadth; each consisting of a single sheet of ice, having its surface raised in general four or six feet above the level of the water, and its base depressed to the depth of near twenty feet beneath.

The various kinds of Ice described.

The ice in general is designated by a variety of appellations, distinguishing it according to the size or number of pieces, their form of aggregation, thickness, transparency, &c. I perhaps cannot better explain the terms in common acceptation amongst the whale-fishers, than by marking the disruption of a field. The thickest and strongest field cannot resist the power of a heavy swell; indeed, such are much less capable of bending without being dissevered, than the thinner ice which is more pliable. When a field, by the set of the current, drives to the southward, and being deserted by the loose ice, becomes exposed to the effects of a ground swell, it presently breaks into a great many pieces, few of which will exceed
forty

forty or fifty yards in diameter. Now, such a number of these pieces collected together in close contact, so that they cannot, from the top of the ship's mast, be seen over, are termed a pack.

When the collection of pieces can be seen across, if it assume a circular or polygonal form, the name of patch is applied; and it is called a stream when its shape is more of an oblong, how narrow soever it may be, provided the continuity of the pieces is preserved.

Pieces of very large dimensions, but smaller than fields, are called floes: thus, a field may be compared to a pack, and a floe to a patch, as regards their size and external form.

Small pieces which break off, and are separated from the larger masses by the effect of attrition, are called brash-ice, and may be collected into streams or patches.

Ice is said to be loose or open, when the pieces are so far separated as to allow a ship to sail freely amongst them; this has likewise been called drift-ice.

A hummock is a protuberance raised upon any plane of ice above the common level. It is frequently produced by pressure, where one piece is squeezed upon another, often set upon its edge, and in that position cemented by the frost. Hummocks are likewise formed, by pieces of ice mutually crushing each other, the wreck being coacervated upon one or both of them. To hummocks, the ice is indebted for its variety of fanciful shapes, and its picturesque appearance. They occur in great numbers in heavy packs, on the edges and occasionally in

the middle of fields and floes. They often attain the height of thirty feet or upwards.

A calf, is a portion of ice which has been depressed by the same means as a hummock is elevated. It is kept down by some larger mass; from beneath which, it shews itself on one side. I have seen a calf so deep and broad, that the ship sailed over it without touching, when it might be observed on both sides of the vessel at the same time; this, however, is attended with considerable danger, and necessity alone warrants the experiment, as calves have not unfrequently (by a ship's touching them, or disturbing the sea near them) been called from their sub-marine situation to the surface, and with such an accelerated velocity, as to stave the planks and timbers of the ship, and in some instances, to reduce the vessel to a wreck.

Any part of the upper superficies of a piece of ice, which comes to be immersed beneath the surface of the water, obtains the name of a tongue.

A bight signifies a bay or sinuosity, on the border of any large mass or body of ice. It is supposed to be called bight from the low word bite, to take in, or entrap; because, in this situation, ships are sometimes so caught by a change of wind, that the ice cannot be cleared on either tack; and in some cases, a total loss has been the consequence.

Comparison of Ice frozen from Sea-Water and Rain-Water.

When the sea freezes, the greatest part of the salt it contains is deposited, and the frozen spongy mass

mass probably contains no salt, but what is natural to the sea-water filling its pores. Hence, the generality of ice affords fresh-water, when dissolved. As, however, the ice frozen from sea-water does not appear so solid and transparent as that procured from snow or rain-water, sailors distinguish it into two kinds, accordingly as it seems to have been formed from one or the other.

Ice frozen from Sea-Water.

What is considered as salt-water ice, is porous, white, and in a great measure opaque, (except when in very thin pieces), yet transmits the rays of light with a greenish shade. It is softer, and swims lighter than fresh-water ice, and when dissolved, produces water sometimes perfectly fresh, and sometimes saltish; this depends in a great measure on the situation from whence it is taken: such parts as are raised above the surface of the sea in the form of hummocks, appear to gain solidity by exposure to the sun and air, and are commonly fresh, whilst those pieces taken out of the sea are somewhat salt. Although it is very probable, that this retention of salt may arise from the sea-water contained in its pores, yet I have never been able to obtain, from the water of the ocean, by experiment, an ice either compact, transparent, or fresh. That the sea-water has a tendency to produce fresh ice, however, is proved from the concentration observed in a quantity exposed in an open vessel to a low temperature, by the separation of the salt from the crystals of ice,

in the progress of the freezing. Thus it is, that in the coldest weather, when a ship exposed to a tempestuous sea is washed with repeated sprays, and thereby covered with ice, that in different places obstructing the efflux of the water overboard, a portion always remains unfrozen, and which, on being tasted, is found to contain salt highly concentrated. This arises from the freezing point of water falling in a certain ratio according to the degree of saltiness; thus, though pure water, of specific gravity 1.0000, freeze with a temperature of 32° , water of specific gravity 1.0263, containing about 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. (avoird.) of salt in every gallon of 231 cubic inches, that is, with the degree of saltiness common to the Greenland seas, freezes at $28\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. Sea-water concentrated by freezing, until it obtains the specific gravity of 1.1045, requires a temperature of $13\frac{2}{3}^{\circ}$ for its congelation, having its freezing point reduced $18\frac{1}{3}^{\circ}$ below that of pure water; and water saturated with sea-salt remains liquid, at a temperature of -4° .

Thus, we are presented with a natural process for extracting salt from the sea, at least for greatly facilitating that process in a concentration of the saline particles, by the agency of frost.

When salt-water ice floats in the sea at a freezing temperature, the proportion above, to that below the surface, is as 1 to 4 nearly; and in fresh water, at the freezing point, as 10 to 69, or 1 to 7 nearly. Hence, its specific gravity appears to be about 0.873. Of this description is all young ice as it called, which forms a considerable

considerable proportion of packed and drift ice in general ; where it occurs in flat pieces commonly covered with snow, of various dimensions, but seldom exceeding fifty yards in diameter.

Fresh-Water Ice.

Fresh-water ice, is distinguished by its black appearance when floating in the sea, and its beautiful green hue and transparency when removed into the air. Large pieces may occasionally be obtained, possessing a degree of purity and transparency, equal to that of the finest glass, or most beautiful crystal ; but generally, its transparency is interrupted by numerous small globular or pear-shaped air-bubbles : these frequently form continuous lines intersecting the ice in a direction apparently perpendicular to its plane of formation.

Fresh-water ice is fragile, but hard ; the edges of a fractured part are frequently so keen, as to inflict a wound like glass. The homogeneous and most transparent pieces, are capable of concentrating the rays of the sun, so as to produce a considerable intensity of heat. With a lump of ice, of by no means regular convexity, I have frequently burnt wood, fired gunpowder, melted lead, and lit the sailors' pipes, to their great astonishment ; all of whom, who could procure the needful articles, eagerly flocked around me, for the satisfaction of smoking a pipe ignited by such extraordinary means. Their astonishment was increased, on observing, that the ice remained firm and pellucid, whilst the solar rays emerging

therefrom were so hot, that the hand could not be kept longer in the focus, than for the space of a few seconds. In the formation of these lenses, I roughed them with a small axe, which cut the ice tolerably smooth ; I then scraped them with a knife, and polished them merely by the warmth of the hand, supporting them during the operation in a woollen glove. I once procured a piece of the purest ice, so large, that a lens of sixteen inches diameter was obtained out of it ; unfortunately, however, the sun became obscured before it was completed, and never made its appearance again for a fortnight, during which time, the air being mild, the lens was spoiled.

The most dense kind of ice, which is perfectly transparent, is about one-tenth specifically lighter than sea-water at a freezing temperature. Plunged into pure water, of temperature 32°, the proportion floating above to that below the surface, is as 1 to 15, and placed in boiling fresh water, it barely floats. Its specific gravity is about 0.937.

Fields, bergs, and other large masses, chiefly consist of this kind of ice. Brash-ice likewise affords pieces of it, the surfaces of which are always found crowded with conchoidal excavations when taken out of the sea.

On the Formation of Ice on the Sea.

Some naturalists have been at considerable pains to endeavour to explain the phenomena of the progressive formation of the ice in high latitudes, and the derivation of the supply, which is annually furnished, for replacing the great quantities

quantities that are dissolved and dissipated by the power of the waves, and the warmth of the climate into which it drifts. It has frequently been urged, that the vicinity of land is indispensable for its formation. Whether this may be the case or not, the following facts may possibly determine.

I have noticed the process of freezing from the first appearance of crystals, until the ice had obtained a thickness of more than a foot, and did not find that the land afforded any assistance or even shelter, which could not have been dispensed with during the operation. It is true, that the land was the cause of the vacancy or space free from ice, where this new ice was generated; the ice of older formation had been driven off by easterly winds, assisted perhaps by a current; yet this new ice lay at the distance of twenty leagues from Spitzbergen. But I have also seen ice grow to a consistence capable of stopping the progress of a ship with a brisk wind, even when exposed to the waves of the North Sea and Western Ocean, on the south aspect of the main body of the Greenland ice, in about the seventy-second degree of north latitude. In this situation, the process of freezing is accomplished under peculiar disadvantages. I shall attempt to describe its progress from the commencement.

Freezing of the Ocean in a rough Sea.

The first appearance of ice whilst in the state of detached crystals, is called by the sailors

sludge, and resembles snow when cast into water that is too cold to dissolve it. This smooths the ruffled sea, and produces an effect like oil in stilling the breaking surface. These crystals soon unite, and would form a continuous sheet, but, by the motion of the waves, they are broken into very small pieces, scarcely three inches in diameter. As they strengthen, many of them coalesce, and form a larger mass. The undulations of the sea still continuing, these enlarged pieces strike each other on every side, whereby they become rounded, and their edges turned up, whence they obtain the name of pancakes: several of these again unite, and thereby continue to increase, forming larger pancakes, until they become perhaps a foot in thickness, and many yards in circumference.

Freezing of the Sea in sheltered Situations.

When the sea is perfectly smooth, the freezing process goes on more regularly, and perhaps more rapidly. The commencement is similar to that just described; it is afterwards continued by constant additions to its under surface. During twenty-four hours keen frost, it will have become two or three inches thick, and in less than forty-eight hours time, capable of sustaining the weight of a man. This is termed bay-ice, whilst that of older formation is distinguished into light and heavy ice; the former being from a foot to about a yard in thickness, and the latter from about a yard upwards.

It is generally allowed, that all that

that is necessary in low temperatures for the formation of ice, is still water: here then, it is obtained. In every opening of the ice at a distance from the sea, the water is always as smooth as that of a harbour; and as I have observed the growth of ice up to a foot in thickness in such a situation, during one month's frost, the effect of many years we might deem to be sufficient for the formation of the most ponderous fields.

There is no doubt, but a large quantity of ice is annually generated in the bays, and amidst the islands of Spitzbergen: which bays, towards the end of summer, are commonly emptied of their contents, from the thawing of the snow on the mountains causing a current outwards. But this will not account for the immense fields which are so abundant in Greenland. These evidently come from the northward, and have their origin between Spitzbergen and the Pole.

On the Generation of Fields.

As strong winds are known to possess great influence in drifting off the ice, where it meets with the least resistance, may they not form openings in the ice far to the north, as well as in latitudes within our observation? Notwithstanding the degree in which this cause may prevail is uncertain, yet of this we are assured, that the ice on the west coast of Spitzbergen, has always a tendency to drift, and actually does advance in a surprising manner to the south or south-west; whence some vacancy must assuredly be left in the place which it formerly occupied.

These openings, therefore, may be readily frozen over, whatever be their extent, and the ice may in time acquire all the characters of a massy field.

It must, however, be confessed, that from the density and transparency of the ice of fields, and the purity of the water obtained therefrom, it is difficult to conceive that it could possess such characters if frozen entirely from the water of the ocean;—particularly as young ice is generally found to be porous and opaque, and does not afford a pure solution. The succeeding theory, therefore, is perhaps more consonant to appearances; and although it may not be established, has at least probability to recommend it.

It appears from what has been advanced, that openings must occasionally occur in the ice between Spitzbergen and the Pole, and that these openings will in all probability, be again frozen over. Allowing, therefore, a thin field or a field of bay-ice to be therein formed, a superstructure may probably be added by the following process. The frost, which constantly prevails during nine months of the year, relaxes towards the end of June or the beginning of July, whereby the covering of snow, annually deposited to the depth of two or three feet on the ice, dissolves. Now, as this field is supposed to arise amidst the older and heavier ice, it may readily occupy the whole interval, and be cemented to the old ice on every side; whence the melted snow has no means of escape. Or, whatever be the means of its retention on the surface of the young field, whether
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by the adjunction of higher ice, the elevation of its border by the pressure of the surrounding ice, or the irregularity of its own surface, several inches of ice must be added to its thickness on the returning winter, by the conversion of the snow-water into solid ice. This process repeated for many successive years, or even ages, together with the enlargement of its under-side from the ocean, might be deemed sufficient to produce the most stupendous bodies of ice that have yet been discovered; at the same time that the ice thus formed, would doubtless correspond with the purity and transparency of that of fields in general.

Fields may sometimes have their origin in heavy close packs, which, being cemented together by the intervention of new ice, may become the solid mass. In this way are produced such fields as exhibit a rugged, hummocky surface.

Fields commonly make their appearance about the month of June, though sometimes earlier:—they are frequently the resort of young whales; strong north and westerly winds expose them to the Greenlandmen, by driving off the loose ice. Some fields exhibit a perfect level plain, without a fissure or hummock, so clear indeed, that I imagine, upon one which I saw, a coach might be driven a hundred miles in a direct line, without any obstruction. Most commonly, however, the surface contains some hummocks, which somewhat relieve the uniformity of intense light, by a tinge of delicate green, in cavities where the light gains admittance

in an oblique direction, by passing through a portion of ice.

The invariable tendency of fields to drift to the south-westward, even in calms, is the means of many being yearly destroyed. They have frequently been observed to advance a hundred miles in this direction, within the space of one month, notwithstanding the occurrence of winds from every quarter. On emerging from amidst the smaller ice, which before sheltered them, they are soon broken up by the swell, are partly dissolved, and partly converted into drift ice. The places of such are supplied by others from the north. White bears here find an occasional habitation, and will travel many leagues from land upon the fields. They have been repeatedly met with, not only upon these continuous sheets of ice, but on the ice of close packs, to the utmost extent to which ships have penetrated.

On the tremendous Concussions of Fields.

The occasional rapid motion of fields, with the strange effects produced on any opposing substance, exhibited by such immense bodies, is one of the most striking objects this country presents, and is certainly the most terrific. They not unfrequently acquire a rotatory movement, whereby their circumference attains a velocity of several miles per hour. A field, thus in motion, coming in contact with another at rest, or more especially with a contrary direction of movement, produces a dreadful shock. A body of more than ten thousand millions of tons in weight, meeting with resistance, when in motion,

motion, the consequences may possibly be conceived! The weaker field is crushed with an awful noise; sometimes the destruction is mutual: pieces of huge dimensions and weight, are not unfrequently piled upon the top, to the height of twenty or thirty feet, whilst doubtless a proportionate quantity is depressed beneath. The view of those stupendous effects in safety, exhibits a picture sublimely grand; but where there is danger of being overwhelmed, terror and dismay must be the predominant feelings. The whale-fishers at all times require unremitting vigilance to secure their safety, but scarcely in any situation so much, as when navigating amidst those fields: in foggy weather, they are particularly dangerous, as their motions cannot then be distinctly observed. It may easily be imagined, that the strongest ship can no more withstand the shock of the contact of two fields, than a sheet of paper can stop a musket-ball. Numbers of vessels, since the establishment of the fishery, have been thus destroyed; some have been thrown upon the ice, some have had their hulls completely torn open, and others have been buried beneath the heaped fragments of the ice.

In the year 1804, I had a good opportunity of witnessing the effects produced by the lesser masses in motion. Passing between two fields of bay-ice, about a foot in thickness, they were observed rapidly to approach each other, and before our ship could pass the strait, they met with a velocity of three or four miles per hour: the one overlaid the other, and pre-

sently covered many acres of surface. The ship proving an obstacle to the course of the ice, it squeezed up on both sides, shaking her in a dreadful manner, and producing a loud grinding, or lengthened acute tremulous noise, accordingly as the degree of pressure was diminished or increased, until it had risen as high as the deck. After about two hours, the velocity was diminished to a state of rest; and soon afterwards, the two sheets of ice receded from each other, nearly as rapidly as they before advanced. The ship, in this case, did not receive any injury, but had the ice been only half a foot thicker, she would probably have been wrecked.

In the month of May of the present year, (1813), I witnessed a more tremendous scene. Whilst navigating amidst ~~the~~ ^{an} ~~ext~~ ponderous ice which the Greenland seas present, in the prospect of making our escape from a state of besetment, our progress was unexpectedly arrested by an isthmus of ice, about a mile in breadth, formed by the coalition of the point of an immense field on the north, with that of an aggregation of floes on the south. To the north field, we moored the ship, in the hope of the ice separating in this place. I then quitted the ship, and travelled over the ice to the point of collision, to observe the state of the bar which now prevented our release. I immediately discovered that the two points had but recently met; that already a prodigious mass of rubbish had been squeezed upon the top, and that the motion had not abated. The fields continued to overlay each other with a majestic motion,

motion, producing a noise resembling that of complicated machinery, or distant thunder. The pressure was so immense, that numerous fissures were occasioned, and the ice repeatedly rent beneath my feet. In one of the fissures, I found the snow on the level to be three and a half feet deep, and the ice upwards of twelve. In one place, hummocks had been thrown up to the height of twenty feet from the surface of the field, and at least twenty-five feet from the level of the water; they extended fifty or sixty yards in length, and fifteen in breadth, forming a mass of about two thousand tons in weight. The majestic unvaried movement of the ice,—the singular noise with which it was accompanied,—the tremendous power exerted,—and the wonderful effects produced, were calculated to excite sensations of novelty and grandeur, in the mind of even the most careless spectator!

Sometimes these motions of the ice may be accounted for. Fields are disturbed by currents,—the wind,—or the pressure of other ice against them. Though the set of the current be generally towards the south-west, yet it seems occasionally to vary: the wind forces all ice to leeward, with a velocity nearly in the inverse proportion to its depth under water; light ice consequently drives faster than heavy ice, and loose ice than fields: loose ice meeting the side of a field in its course, becomes deflected, and its reaction causes a circular motion of the field. Fields may approximate each other, from three causes: first, If the lighter ice be to windward, it will, of ne-

cessity, be impelled towards the heavier: secondly, As the wind frequently commences blowing on the windward side of the ice, and continues several hours before it is felt a few miles distant to leeward, the field begins to drift, before the wind can produce any impression on ice on its opposite side; and, thirdly, which is not an uncommon case, by the two fields being impelled towards each other by winds acting on each from opposite quarters.

The closing of heavy ice, encircling a quantity of bay-ice, causes it to run together with such force, that it overlaps wherever two sheets meet, until it sometimes attains the thickness of many feet. Drift-ice does not often coalesce with such a pressure as to endanger any ship which may happen to be beset in it: when, however, land opposes its drift, or the ship is a great distance immured amongst it, the pressure is sometimes alarming.

Icebergs.

The term icebergs has commonly been applied to those immense bodies of ice situated on the land, “filling the valleys between the high mountains,” and generally exhibiting a square perpendicular front towards the sea. They recede backward inland to an extent never explored. Martin, Crantz, Phipps, and others, have described those wonders of nature, and all agree as to their manner of formation, in the congelation of the sleet and rains of summer, and of the accumulated snow, partly dissolved by the summer sun, which, on its decline, freezes

freezes to a transport ice. They are as permanent as the rocks on which they rest: For although large portions may be frequently separated, yet the annual growth replaces the loss, and probably, on the whole, produces a perpetual increase. I have seen those styled the Seven Icebergs, situated in the valleys of the north-west coast of Spitzbergen; their perpendicular front may be about 300 feet in height; the green colour, and glistening surface of which, form a pleasing variety in prospect, with the magnificence of the encompassing snow-clad mountains, which, as they recede from the eye, seem to "rise crag above crag," in endless perspective.

Large pieces may be separated from those ice-bergs in the summer season, when they are particularly fragile, by their ponderous overhanging masses overcoming the force of cohesion; or otherwise, by the powerful expansion of the water, filling any excavation or deep-seated cavity, when its dimensions are enlarged by freezing, thereby exerting a tremendous force, and bursting the whole asunder.

Pieces thus or otherwise detached, are hurled into the sea with a dreadful crash; if they are received into deep water, they are liable to be drifted off the land, and, under the form of ice-islands, or ice-mountains, they likewise still retain their parent name of icebergs. I much question, however, if all the floating bergs seen in the seas west of Old Greenland, thus derive their origin; their number is so great, and their dimensions so immense.

Magnitude of Icebergs.

If all the floating islands of ice thus proceed from disruptions of the icebergs generated on the land, how is it that so few are met with in Greenland, and those comparatively so diminutive, whilst Baffin's Bay affords them so plentifully, and of such amazing size? The largest I ever saw in Greenland, was about a thousand yards in circumference, nearly square, of a regular flat surface, twenty feet above the level of the sea; and as it was composed of the most dense kind of ice, it must have been 150 or 160 feet in thickness, and in weight about two millions of tons. But masses have been repeatedly seen in Davis' Straits, near two miles in length, and one-third as broad, whose rugged mountainous summits were reared with various spires to the height of more than a hundred feet, whilst their base must have reached to the depth of a hundred and fifty yards beneath the surface of the sea. Others, again, have been observed, possessing an even surface, of five or six square miles in area, elevated thirty yards above the sea, and fairly run aground in water of ninety or a hundred fathoms in depth; the weight of which must have been upwards of two thousand millions of tons!

Icebergs may arise in sheltered Bays of the Land.

Spitzbergen is possessed of every character which is supposed to be necessary for the formation of the largest icebergs; high mountains, deep extensive valleys, intense
frost,

frost, and occasional thaws; yet here a berg is very rarely met with, and the largest I ever heard of, was not to be compared with the productions of Baffin's Bay. Icebergs, I therefore conclude, may have their principal origin in the deep sheltered narrow bays, with which Old or West Greenland abounds. In this respect it possesses a decided advantage over Spitzbergen, since, on the west side, the coast now alone visited, few sheltered spots occur; at least those situations the most protected from the influences of the wind and prevailing currents, are found annually to disembody themselves of their ice. On the eastern coast, if we may rely on the charts, and credit the affirmations of the Dutch, many more suitable spots are offered, wherein ice may be increased for ages; the most prevailing winds, and the common set of the current on these shores, having no tendency to dislodge it, until its enormous growth has carried it beyond the limits of security and undisturbed rest. And from this Eastern coast it is, (which is favourable to the supposition,) that most of the icebergs which have been seen, seem to have drifted,—they being mostly met with in the vicinity of Cherry Island, or between it and the southern Cape of Spitzbergen, where the course of the current is supposed to be from the north-east towards the south-west. The ice of bergs invariably producing pure fresh-water, when dissolved, is no argument against the majority having their origin amidst sea-water; for fields, which, from their flat surface, and large ex-

tent, must have their rise on the bosom of the ocean, commonly afford a solution equally fresh.

Icebergs generated at a distance from any known Land.

Müller relates a circumstance which intimates, that some icebergs have their origin in the wide expanse of the ocean. He informs us, that in the year 1714, one Markoff, a Cossack, with some other persons, were sent to explore the ocean north of Russia, by order of the Russian government; but being foiled in his object, by the immense aggregation of drift-ice, he conceived the design of trying during the winter season to travel over the then more compact ice. Accordingly, he prepared several of the country sledges, drawn by dogs; and, accompanied by eight persons, he set out on the 15th March (O. S.) from the mouth of the Yana, on the coast of Siberia, in latitude 71° N. and longitude about 132° E. He proceeded for seven days northward, until he reached the 77th or 78th degree of north latitude, when his progress was impeded by ice elevated into prodigious mountains. From the top of these, he could see nothing but mountainous ice to the northward; at the same time falling short of provisions for his dogs, he returned with difficulty: several of his dogs died for want, and were given to the rest for their support. On the 3d of April he reached the Siberian shore, after an absence of nineteen days, during which he travelled 800 miles.

Here, therefore, is a fact of a continent, if we may so speak, of mountainous

mountainous ice existing, and probably constantly increasing in the ocean, at a distance of between three and four hundred miles from any known land: indeed, it must be so completely sheltered by the exterior drift or field ice in every direction, that there seems every facility afforded for its growth, that a sheltered bay in the land could supply.

On the growth of Icebergs formed on the Sea.

As the difference in the appearance of the ice of fields, and of that formed in places within our observation, seems to require the deposition of moisture from the atmosphere for explaining the phenomenon; so, the similarity of the ice of bergs with that of fields, (whether generated in bays of the land, or in regions nearer the Pole), is a reason for admitting the operation of the same causes in their production. If we can conceive, from the before-mentioned process of the enlargement of fields by the addition of the annually deposited humidity, that a few years are sufficient for the production of considerable fields of ice, what must be the effect of fifty or sixty centuries affording an annual increase in undisturbed security?

If, therefore, we add to the precipitations from the atmosphere, the stores supplied by the sea, and allow the combination of these two by the agency of an intense frost, and conceive also a state of quiescence for the operation of these causes, secured for ages, the question of the mode of production of the most enormous

ice mountains seem to have a sufficient solution.

Loose icebergs, it has been observed, are but sparingly disseminated in the Greenland Seas, but in Davis' Straits they abound in astonishing profusion. Setting constantly towards the south, they are scattered abroad to an amazing extent. The Banks of Newfoundland are occasionally crowded with these wonderful productions of the frigid zone. They have been met with as far south as the latitude of 40° N., a distance of at least 2100 miles from their source.

Icebergs numerous in the Antarctic Zone.

The indefatigable Captain Cook, when exploring the regions beyond the antarctic circle, met with icebergs on every course, in great abundance, as well as of vast size; many, according to Forster, were one or two miles in extent, and upwards of a hundred feet above the water, and might be supposed to be sunk to ten times that depth. On the 26th of December 1773, they counted 186 icebergs from the mast-head, whereof none were less than the hull of a ship.

Icebergs useful to the Whale-Fishers.

Icebergs, though often dangerous neighbours, occasionally prove useful auxiliaries to the whale-fishers. Their situation in a smooth sea, is very little affected by the wind: under the strongest gale, they are not perceptibly moved; but, on the contrary, have the appearance of advancing to windward, from every other description of ice moving so rapidly past them, on account of its finding

ing less resistance from the water, in proportion as its depth beneath the surface is diminished. From the iceberg's firmness, it often affords a stable mooring to a ship in strong adverse winds, or when a state of rest is required for the performance of the different operations attendant on a successful fishery. The fisher likewise avails himself of this quiescent property, when his ship is incommoded or rendered unmanageable by the accumulation of drift-ice around, when his object is to gain a windward situation more open. He gets under the lea of the iceberg;—the loose ice soon forces past the berg,—the ship remains nearly stationary,—and the wished-for effect seldom fails to result. Mooring to lofty icebergs is attended with considerable danger: being sometimes finely balanced, they are apt to be overturned; and whilst floating in a tide-way, should their base be arrested by the ground, their detrusion necessarily follows, attended with a thundering noise, and the crushing of every object they encounter in their descent: thus have vessels been often staved, and sometimes wrecked, by the fall of their icy mooring. Men and boats are a weaker prey,—the vast waves, alone occasioned by such events, at once overwhelming every smaller object, within a considerable distance of the rolling mountain.

Fragility of Icebergs.

All pure ice becomes exceedingly fragile towards the close of the whale-fishing season, when the temperate air thaws its surface. Bergs, on being struck by an axe,

for the purpose of placing a mooring anchor, have been known to rend asunder and precipitate the careless seamen into the yawning chasm, whilst occasionally the masses are hurled apart, and fall in contrary directions with a prodigious crush, burying boats and men in one common ruin. The awful effect produced by a solid mass many thousands of tons in weight, changing its situation with the velocity of a falling body, whereby its aspiring summit is in a moment buried in the ocean, can be more easily imagined than described!

If the blow with any edge-tool on brittle ice does not sever the mass, still it is often succeeded by a crackling noise, proving the mass to be ready to burst from the action of an internal expansion; in this way, sometimes deep chasms are formed, similar to those occurring in the Glaciers of the Alps.

It is common, when ships moor to icebergs, to lie as remote from the danger as their ropes will allow, and yet accidents sometimes happen, though the ship ride at a distance of a hundred yards from the ice. Thus, calves rising up with a velocity nearly equal to that of the descent of a falling berg, have produced destructive effects. In the year 1812, whilst the *Thomas of Hull*, Captain Taylor, lay moored to an iceberg in Davis' Straits, a calf was detached from beneath, and rose with such tremendous force, that the keel of the ship was lifted even with the water at the bow, whilst the stern was nearly immersed beneath the surface. Fortunately the ship was not materially damaged.

From

From the deep pools of water formed in the summer season on the depressed surface of some bergs, the ships navigating where they abound are presented with opportunities for watering with the greatest ease and dispatch. For this purpose, casks are landed upon the lower bergs, whilst, from the higher, the water is conveyed by means of a hose into casks placed in the boats, at the side of the ice, or even upon the deck of the ship.

Navigating amongst icebergs in the gloom of night, has sometimes been attended with fatal consequences. Occurring far from land, and in unexpected situations, the danger would be extreme, were they not providentially rendered visible by their natural effulgence, which enables the mariner to distinguish them at some distance, even in the darkest night, or during the prevalence of the densest fog.

Abstract of the remarks on the formation of the Polar Ice.

From what has been advanced in the preceding pages, on the mode and place of formation of the ice, occurring in the seas intermediate between East Greenland or Spitzbergen, and West or Old Greenland, the following conclusions seem naturally to result, and which will partly apply to the formation of the ice in other places of the polar circle:

I. Drift ice.—That the light packed or drift ice is the annual product of the bays of Spitzbergen, and of the interstices in the body of older ice; and, that it is wholly derived from the water of the ocean.

That the heavy packed or drift ice generally arises from the disruption of fields.

II. Icebergs.—That some ice mountains or icebergs are derived from the icebergs generated on the land between the mountains of the sea coast, and are consequently the product of snow or rain water.

That a more considerable portion may probably be formed in the deep sheltered bays abounding on the east coast of Spitzbergen. These have their bed in the waters of the ocean, and are partly the product of sea-water, and partly that of snow and rain water. And it is highly probable,

That a continent of ice mountains may exist in regions near the Pole, yet unexplored, the nucleus of which may be as ancient as the earth itself, and its increase derived from the sea and atmosphere combined.

III. Fields.—That some fields arise from the cementation, by the agency of frost, of the pieces of a closely aggregated pack, which may have consisted of light or heavy ice; and, consequently, which may have been wholly derived from the ocean, or from the sea and atmosphere combined.

That the most considerable masses are generated in openings of the far northern ice, produced by the constant recession towards the south of that body lying near the coasts of Spitzbergen; and, that such fields are at first derived from the ocean, but are indebted for a considerable portion of superstructure to the annual addition of the whole, or part of their burthen of snow. And,

IV. As to the ice in general.—
That

That however dependant the ice may have been on the land, from the time of its first appearance, to its gaining an ascendancy over the waves of the ocean, sufficient to resist their utmost ravages, and to arrest the progress of maritime discovery, at a distance of perhaps from six hundred to a thousand miles from the Pole, it is now evident, that the proximity of land is not essential, either for its existence, its formation, or its increase.

On the situation of the Polar Ice, and the effects produced on it by the change of seasons.

The mass of ice lying between Old Greenland on the west, and the Russian portion of Europe on the east, though varying considerably in particulars, yet as a general outline is strikingly uniform.

On the east coast of West Greenland, a remarkable alteration has, however, taken place. That part extending from the parallel of Iceland to Staten-Hook, was, before the fifteenth century, free of ice, and could always be approached in the summer season, without hinderance. After a considerable trade had been carried on between Iceland and the Main for upwards of 400 years, singular as it may appear, of a sudden the polar ice extended its usual limits, launched down by the land to the Southern Cape, and so completely barricadoed the whole of the eastern coast, that it has not since been accessible. The fate of the wretched inhabitants is unknown; but they are generally supposed to have perished from the want of their usual supplies, or from the

increased coldness of their atmosphere.

In various countries, changes of climate to a certain extent have occurred, within the limits of historical record; these changes have been commonly for the better, and have been considered as the effects of human industry, in draining marshes and lakes, felling woods, and cultivating the earth: but here is an occurrence, the reverse of common experience; and concerning its causes I am not prepared to hazard any conjecture.

This icy barrier, at present, with each recurring spring, exhibits the following general outline. After doubling the southern promontory of Greenland, it advances in a north-eastern direction along the east coast, enveloping Iceland as it proceeds, until it reaches John Mayne's Island. Passing this island on the north-west, but frequently enclosing it likewise, it then trends a little more to the eastward, and intersects the meridian of London in the 71st or 72d degree of latitude. Having reached the longitude of 6, 8, or perhaps 10 degrees east, in the 73d or 74th degree of north latitude, it suddenly stretches to the north, sometimes proceeding on a meridian to the latitude of 80°, at others forming a deep sinuosity, extending two or three degrees to the northward, and then south easterly to Cherry Island;—which having passed, it assumes a direct course a little south of east, until it forms a junction with the Siberian or Nova Zemblan coast.

That remarkable promontory, formed by the sudden stretch of the ice to the north, constitutes
the

the line of separation between the east or whale-fishing, and west or sealing ice of the fishers. And the deep bay lying to the east of this point, invariably forms the only pervious track for proceeding to fishing latitudes northward. When the ice at the extremity of this bay occurs so strong and compact as to prevent the approach to the shores of Spitzbergen, and the advance northward beyond the latitude of 75° or 76° , it is said to be a close season; and, on the contrary, it is called an open season, when an uninterrupted navigation extends along the western coast of Spitzbergen to Hackluyt's Headland. In an open season, therefore, a large channel of water lies between the land and the ice, from 20 to 50 leagues in breadth, extending to the latitude of 79° or 80° , and gradually approximating the coast, until it at length effects a coalition with the north-western extremity, by a semicircular head. When the continuity of the mass of ice, intervening between West Greenland and Nova Zembla, is thus interrupted in an open season, the ice again makes its appearance on the south of Spitzbergen, proceeding from thence direct to Cherry Island, and then eastward as before.

Such is the general appearance of the margin or outline of the polar ice, which holds, with merely partial changes, for many successive seasons. This outline, however, is necessarily more or less affected by storms and currents: their more than ordinary prevalence in any one direction, must cause some variety of aspect in particular places, which becomes more especially apparent in the

vicinity of land, where its coasts afford marks by which to estimate the advance and retreat of the ice.

The line formed by the exterior of the ice, is variously indented, and very rarely appears direct or uniform. Open bays or arms occur, from a few fathoms, to several miles in length. None of them, however, have any determinate form or place, except the "Whale-fisher's Bight," or great bay before described, in which the Greenlandmen ever seek a passage to the fishing stations.

The place where whales occur in the greatest abundance, is generally found to be in the 78^{th} or 79^{th} degree of north latitude, though from the 72^{d} to the 81^{st} degree they have been met with. These singular animals, which, on account of their prodigious bulk and strength, might be thought entitled to reign supreme in the ocean, are harmless and timid. They seem to prefer those situations which afford them the most secure retreats. Among the ice, they have an occasional shelter; but so far as it is permeable, the security is rather apparent than real. That they are conscious of its affording them shelter, we can readily perceive, from observing that the course of their flight when scared or wounded, is generally towards the nearest or most compact ice. The place of their retreat, however, is regulated by various circumstances; it may sometimes depend on the quality and quantity of food occurring, the disposition of the ice, or exemption from enemies. At one time, their favourite haunt is amidst the huge and extended masses

masses of the field ice; at another, in the open seas adjacent. Sometimes the majority of the whales inhabiting those seas, seem collected within a small and single circuit; at others, they are scattered in various hordes, and numerous single individuals, over an amazing extent of surface. To discover and reach the haunts of the whale, is an object of the first consideration in the fishery, and occasionally the most difficult and laborious to accomplish. In close seasons, though the ice joins the south of Spitzbergen, and thereby forms a barrier against the fishing-stations, yet this barrier is often of a limited extent, and terminates on the coast of Spitzbergen in an open space, either forming, or leading to, the retreat of the whales. Such space is sometimes frozen over until the middle or end of the month of May, but not unfrequently free of ice. The barrier here opposed to the fisher, usually consists of a mass of ice from 20 to 30 or 40 leagues across in the shortest diameter. It is generally composed of packed ice, and often cemented into a continuous field by the interference of bay ice, which incredibly augments the difficulty of navigating among it.

As the time that can be devoted to the whale-fishery is, by the nature of the climate, limited to three or four months in the year, it is of importance to pass this barrier of ice as early as possible in the season. The fisher here avails himself of every power within his command. The sails are expanded in favourable winds, and withdrawn in contrary breezes. The ship is urged forward amongst

the drift ice through the force of the wind, assisted by ropes and saws. Whenever a vein of water, as it is called, appears in the required direction, it is if possible attained. It always affords a temporary relief, and sometimes a permanent release, by extending itself through intricate mazes, amidst ice of various descriptions, until at length it opens into the desired place, void of obstruction, and the retreat of the whales.

The formidable barrier before described, is regularly encountered on the first arrival of Greenland ships in the month of April, but is generally removed by natural means as the season advances. However extensive, huge, and compact it may be, it is usually found separated from the land, and divided asunder by the close of the month of June; and hence it is, that however difficult and laborious may have been the ingress into the fishing country, the egress is commonly effected without particular inconvenience.

That the ice should envelope the whole coasts of Spitzbergen in the winter season, and expose the western shore about the month of June; that the ocean should be almost annually navigable on the meridians of 5° to 10° E., to the 80th degree of north latitude, whilst the ice in every other part of the world can rarely be penetrated beyond the 74th degree, are facts highly curious, and certainly worthy of consideration.

On the recession of the ice from the west side of the land, a lane of water must be left from one extremity to the other; while to the south of Point Look-Out, a parallel

parallel motion of the ice leaves no opening or evidence of its change of place; for here, the ice meeting with no obstruction to cause it to divide, moves on in a solid body, retained firm and unbroken by the tenacious solder of the interjacent bay ice.

In the month of May, the severity of the frost relaxes, and the temperature occasionally approaches within a few degrees of the freezing point: the brine then exerts its liquefying energy, and destroys the tenacity of the bay ice, makes inroads in its parts by enlarging its pores into holes, diminishes its thickness, and, in the language of the whale-fisher, completely rots it. The packed drift ice is then loosed; it submits to the laws of detached floating bodies, and obeys the slightest impulses of the winds or currents. The heavier having more stability than the lighter, an apparent difference of movement obtains among the pieces. Holes and lanes of water are formed, which allow the entrance and progress of the ships, without that stubborn resistance offered earlier in the spring of the year.

Bay ice is sometimes serviceable to the whale-fishers, in preserving them from the brunt of the heavy ice, by embedding their ships, and occasioning an equable pressure on every part of the vessel: but, in other respects, it is the greatest pest they meet with in all their labours: it is troublesome in the fishery, and in the progress to the fishing ground; it is often the means of besetment, as it is called, and thence the primary cause of every other calamity. Heavy ice,

many feet in thickness, and in detached pieces of from 50 to 100 tons weight each, though crowded together in the form of a pack, may be penetrated, in a favourable gale, with tolerable dispatch; whilst a sheet of bay ice, of a few inches only in thickness, with the same advantage of wind, will often arrest the progress of the ship, and render her in a few minutes immoveable. If this ice be too strong to be broken by the weight of a boat, recourse must be had to sawing, an operation slow and laborious in the extreme.

When the warmth of the season has rotted the bay ice, the passage to the northward can generally be accomplished with a very great saving of labour. Therefore it was, the older fishers seldom or never used to attempt it before the 10th of May, and foreigners are in general late. Sometimes late arrivals are otherwise beneficial; since it frequently happens, in close seasons, that ships entering the ice about the middle of May obtain an advantage over those preceding them, by gaining a situation more eligible, on account of its nearness to the land. Their predecessors, meanwhile, are drifted off to the westward with the ice, and cannot recover their easting; for they are encompassed with a large quantity of ice, and have a greater distance to go than when they first entered, and on a course precisely in opposition to the direction of the most prevailing winds. Hence it appears, that it would be economical and beneficial to sail so late, as not to reach the country before the middle of May, or to
persevere

persevere on the seal catching stations until that time. There are, however, some weighty objections to this method. Open seasons occasionally occur, and great progress may sometimes be made in the fishery before that time. Also, although the majority of the ships do not commonly succeed in passing the barrier in close seasons before a certain period, yet some individuals, by superior exertion, perseverance, ability, or good fortune, accomplish the end considerably before the rest, and thereby gain a superiority in the fishery, not to be attained by later arrivals. A week or fortnight's solitary fishing, under these circumstances, has frequently gained half a cargo,—an advantage of the most interesting importance, in a voyage of so limited duration, and where the success is supposed to depend so considerably upon chance.

That there is something resembling what is called chance or luck in the fishery, cannot be disputed; but that the fishery is altogether a chain of casualties, is as false as it is derogatory to the credit of the persons employed in the enterprize. For a person with a die to throw the highest point once in six times, is what might be expected from chance; but for him to throw the highest point many times in succession, would afford a presumptive proof, that he employed some art in casting the die. So it is with the fishery. The most skilful, from adventitious and unavoidable circumstances, may occasionally fail, and the unskilful may be successful; but mark the average of a number of years, (that is where the means

are equal,) and a tolerable estimate may be formed of the adventurer's fitness for his undertaking.

The change which takes place in the ice amidst which the whale-fisher pursues his object, is, towards the close of the season, indeed astonishing. For, not only does it separate into its original individual portions,—not only does it retreat in a body from the western coast of Spitzbergen, but in general, that whole barrier of ice, which encloses the fishing site in the spring, which costs the fisher immense labour and anxiety to penetrate, after retarding his advance towards the north, and progress in the fishery, for the space of several weeks,—spontaneously divides in the midst about the month of June, and on the return of the ships is not at all to be seen! Then is the sea rendered freely navigable, from the very haunts of the whales, to the expanse of the northern and Atlantic oceans.

This quality of the ice is of the first importance to the navigator. It is this known property which gives him confidence in his advance, and enables him to persevere without restraint, calculating on an easy return. As one-half of the fishing season is often spent in the ingress, were the regress as arduous, the sailing would occupy the whole time: besides, the return would be rendered doubly hazardous by the prevalence of the summer fogs, which are thick in the extreme, and sometimes continue for days together, without any relaxation of density.

Were the barrier of ice not passable, the haunts of the whales could

could not be attained; and were the regress not aided by natural facilities, every attempt to prosecute the whale-fishery with effect would be attended with imminent danger; I may say, with almost certain destruction.

On the Properties, peculiar Movements, and Drifting of the Ice.

1. The ice always has a tendency to separate during calms. This property holds both with regard to field and drift ice, and seems to arise from a repelling tendency between the individual masses. Hence it is, that when the heavy ice is released from its confinement by the dissolution of the intruding bay ice, a calm generally spreads its pieces abroad, and allows a free passage for ships, which before could not be urged forward with all the assistance to be derived from the wind, combined with every effort of art. From the same cause it is, that ice, which with strong winds is formed into compact streams or patches, and allows a safe and commodious passage amidst these large aggregations,—on the occurrence of one or two days of calm weather, will be disseminated into every opening, and seem to fill every space, allowing only a troublesome and sinuous navigation. In this case, the dispersion is so general that scarcely any two pieces can be said to touch each other.

Openings in packs, and amidst fields, frequently break out or disappear without any apparent cause. It is often of importance to the fisher to determine whether any space be in the course of di-

minishing or enlarging. The freezing of the water generally affords an intimation of its coarcting, as it rarely occurs on the extension of the bounding ice. The birds likewise instinctively leave the closing spaces, and fly in search of such as are in the course of opening.

2. The amazing changes which take place in the most compact ice, are often unaccountable. They astonish even those who are accustomed to their occurrence. Thus, ships immovably fixed with regard to the ice, have been known to perform a complete revolution in a few hours; and two ships beset a few furlongs apart, within the most compact pack, have sometimes been separated to the distance of several leagues within the space of two or three days, notwithstanding the apparent continuity of the pack remaining unbroken!

On the 7th of May 1798, the Dundee of London, (then commanded by my father,) while forcing to the northward on the most eligible course, was suddenly stopped by a shift of wind, and enveloped by the ice at a very short distance from the land. The Volunteer of Whitby, and three other ships, were likewise arrested a little way from the Dundee. During the day, three Russian convicts visited them, coming over the ice from the nearest shore; but as none of the crew could speak their language, they were prevented from deriving any information from them.

The next day, a heavy gale of wind prevailed from the north-west; the frost was intense, and much snow fell. The pressure of
the

the ice was very severe; inso-much, that their iron-tiller was broken, the ship lifted above two feet, and forced within a mile and a half of the land. All the bay ice was squeezed upon the top of the heavy ice, and the whole was rendered so compact, that they could not find a hole sufficient to admit a lead, for the purpose of ascertaining the depth of the water. They got their provisions upon deck, considering the ship in great danger.

On the 9th, they were in latitude $77^{\circ} 38' N$. The intensity of the pressure was not diminished. The Volunteer lay beset three miles off, under a like dangerous pressure.

In my Father's Journal of the 12th, appear the following remarks: "N. B.—I cannot, from the top-gallant-mast-head, see over the flat of ice to the north-east, into which the ship is frozen; and yet in fifty hours it has revolved from the south-south west, westerly to north, and carried the ship with a semi-circular motion 15 or 20 leagues. On the 10th instant we were within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the land, whereas our distance is now 10 leagues, and our advance to the northward even greater. The Volunteer has drifted out of sight in the south-west quarter."

On the 15th, after labouring eight and forty hours without rest, they escaped into a place of safety.

3. When speaking of the formation of fields, I had occasion to remark, that the polar ice has a constant tendency to drift to the south-westward; with regard to which, it may be observed, that

in situations near the western coast of Spitzbergen, this tendency is seldom observed, but rather the contrary. This may probably result from the effects of the tide, eddies, or peculiar pressures. Its universal prevalence, however, at a distance from the land, though with some slight variations, may be illustrated by numerous facts of almost annual occurrence. A few striking incidents shall suffice.

From a narrative of the loss of several of the Dutch Greenland fleet in the year 1777, we learn that the ship *Wilhelmina* was moored to a field of ice on the 22d of June, in the usual fishing-station, along with a large fleet of other whalers. On the 25th, the *Wilhelmina* was closely beset. The crew were obliged to work incessantly for eight days, in sawing a dock in the field, wherein the ship was at that time preserved.

On the 25th of July, the ice slacked, and the ship was towed to the eastward, during four days laborious rowing with the boats. At the extremity of the opening, they joined four ships, and all of them were soon again beset by the ice. Shortly afterwards, they were drifted within sight of the coast of Old Greenland, in about $75\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of north latitude. On the 15th of August, nine sail were collected together; and about the 20th, after sustaining a dreadful storm, and an immense pressure of the ice, which accumulated around them twenty or thirty feet high,—two of the ships were wrecked. Two more were wrecked four or five days afterwards, together with two others at a distance

tance from them. On the 24th, Iceland was in sight; some of the ice was in motion, and two ships seemed to escape. Another was lost on the 7th of September; and, on the 13th, the *Wilhelmina* was crushed to pieces by the fall of an enormous mass of ice, which was so unexpected, that those of the crew who were in bed, had scarcely time to escape on the ice, half naked as they were.

One ship now alone remained, to which the crews of four, and the surviving part of the crew of a fifth, (that was wrecked on the 30th of September), repaired. In the beginning of October, they had drifted to the latitude of 64° ; and, on the 11th, the last ship was overwhelmed by the ice and sunk. Thus, between three and four hundred men were driven to the ice, and exposed to the inclemency of the weather, almost destitute of food and raiment.

On the 30th of October, the miserable sufferers divided: The greater part betook themselves to the Continent, whilst the rest remained on a field of ice, until they drifted near to Staten Hook, and then followed the example of their comrades. About 140 of the men reached the Danish settlements on the West Coast of Greenland; the remainder, consisting of about 200, perished.

Thus, it appears, that the ship which survived to the latest period, drifted with the ice in a south-westerly direction from the usual fishing-stations, (probably in 78° to 80° of north latitude), to the latitude of about 62° ; at the same time, from longitude a few degrees easterly, to that of more than 30° west; and, that the ice

still continued to advance along the land to the southward.

In the year 1803, the *Henrietta* of Whitby, while prosecuting the whale-fishery, was, by a southerly storm, entangled among the ice in the latitude of 80° north, and longitude of 6° east; and afterwards accompanied it in its drift to the south-westward, at the daily rate of from ten to fifteen miles. They saw several bears; and at one time they conceived that the land of West Greenland was within sight. The ice pressed dreadfully around them, and accumulated in amazing heaps; but providentially, the ship always escaped the heaviest crushes. After a state of complete inertion during seven weeks, the ice began to slack; when, with vigilant and laborious measures, they were enabled to make their escape, in latitude about $73\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ north, and longitude 9° west.

When treating of the pressure of fields, I slightly alluded to a circumstance which occurred within my own observation on my last voyage to Greenland (1814). While it affords a suitable illustration of the tremendous effects produced by the collision of those prodigious sheets of ice, it is no less applicable to the subject in hand; I shall therefore give a sketch of the whole occurrence.

In the beginning of May, we entered, with the ship *Esk* of Whitby, a spacious opening of the ice, to a distance of ten or twelve leagues from the exterior, wherein we were tempted to stay, from the appearance of a great number of whales. On the 9th of May, the weather calmed, the frost was severe, and the ship was soon fixed

fixed in young ice. At the same time, the external sheets of ice on the north-east wheeled to the south, formed a junction with the ice south-east from us, and completely enclosed us. Until the 16th, we lay immovable; a break of the bay ice then appeared about half a-mile from us, to attain which, we laboured with energy, and in eight hours had made a passage for the ship. On the 18th, we pursued the same opening to its eastern extremity, and endeavoured, but without success, to force through a narrow neck of ice, into another opening leading further in the same direction. On the 20th, in accomplishing this object, we endured a heavy pressure of the bay ice, which shook the ship in an alarming manner. The next day we made a small advance; and on the 22d, after a fatiguing effort in passing through the midst of an aggregation of floes against the wind, we obtained a channel which led us several miles to the south-eastward. On the 23d, we lay at rest together with four other ships. The day following, having seen a place for the ship in a thin floe, we forced forward between two large masses, where bay ice unconsolidated had been compressed, until it had become 10 or 12 feet thick. We were assisted by about a hundred men from the accompanying ships, which followed close in our rear; and after applying all our mechanical powers during eight or nine hours, we passed the strait of about a furlong in length, and immediately the ice collapsed and rivetted the ships of our companions to the spot. As they declined our proffered assistance, (which indeed, at

this time, would have been quite unavailing), we determined to improve the advantage we had acquired, by proceeding to the utmost limits of the opening. Accordingly, we advanced, on various winding courses, amidst bay ice and fields, in narrow obscure passages, a distance of several miles. We then discovered a continuation of the navigation, which, although contracted to the space of a few yards, in a channel extending near a mile, between two immense sheets of ice, we determined to attempt to pass on. The prospect was indeed appalling; but, perceiving indications of the enlargement of the passage, rather than the contrary, we advanced under a press of sail, driving aside some disengaged lumps of ice that opposed us, and shortly accomplished our wishes in safety. Here, an enlivening prospect presented itself: to the extreme limits of the horizon, no interruption was visible. We made a predetermined signal to the ships we had left, indicative of our views. In two hours, however, our sanguine expectations of an immediate release, received a check, for we then met with fields in the act of collapsing and completely barring our progress. As the distance across was scarcely a mile, and the sea to appearance clear beyond it, the interruption was most tantalizing. We waited at the point of union, in the hope of the separation of the two fields; and on the morning of the 26th of May, our anxiety was happily relieved by the wished-for division of the ice. The ship, propelled by a brisk wind, darted through the strait, and entered a sea, which

which we considered the termination of our difficulties. After steering three hours to the south-eastward, as directed by the northern ice, we were concerned to discover, that our conclusions had been premature. An immense pack opened on our view, stretching directly across our track. There was no alternative, but forcing through it: we therefore pushed forward into the least connected part. By availing ourselves of every advantage in sailing, where sailing was practicable, and boring or drifting, where the pieces of ice were too compact, we at length reached the leeward part of a narrow channel, in which we had to ply a considerable distance against the wind. In performing this, the wind, which had hitherto blown a brisk breeze from the north, was increased to a strong gale: the ship was placed in such a critical situation, that we could not for above an hour accomplish any reduction of the sails, and she was thus alarmingly oppressed: while I was personally engaged performing the duty of a pilot from the top-mast-head, the agitation and bending of the mast was so uncommon, that I was seriously alarmed for its stability. At length we were enabled to reef our sails, and for a while proceeded with less danger. We continued to manœuvre among the ice, according as its separation was most considerable. Our direction was now east, then north for several hours, then easterly 10 or 15 miles;—when, after 18 hours of the most difficult, and occasionally hazardous sailing, in which the ship received some hard blows from the ice; after pursuing a

devious course nearly ninety miles, and accomplishing a distance on a direct north-east course of about forty miles; we found ourselves at the very margin of the sea, separated only by a narrow sea stream. The waves were so great without, and the wind so violent, that we dared not to hazard an attempt to force through this remaining obstacle. After waiting about thirty hours, on the morning of the 28th of May the weather cleared, and the wind abated. The sea stream, which, the preceding day, did not exceed two hundred yards in breadth, was generally augmented to upwards of a mile broad. One place alone was visible, where the breadth was less considerable; to that we directed our course, forced the ship into it, and by prompt and vigorous exertions were enabled to surmount every difficulty, and accomplish our final escape into the free ocean.

I have been thus minute in the relation of the progress of our extrication from an alarming, though not very uncommon, state of besetment, both for the purpose of giving a faint idea of the difficulties and dangers which those engaged in the whale-fishery have occasionally to encounter, and also more particularly to shew the extraordinary manner in which ships are imperceptibly immured amidst the ice, by the regularity of its drift to the south-westward.

From this narrative it will appear, that, notwithstanding we only penetrated 25 or 30 miles on our ingress, and among ice most widely disposed; yet, before our regress was accomplished, we had passed on a direct course a distance

tance of 35 or 40 leagues, whereof one-half was in contracted channels, amidst compact and formidable ice. And, further, that in less than a fortnight, while at rest with regard to the ice, our drift, as ascertained by astronomical observations, had been 60 or 70 miles to the south, and a distance equally as great to the west.

Effects of the Ice on the Sea and the Atmosphere.

The profusion of ice in the polar regions produces peculiar and marked effects on the surrounding elements. The sea, in consequence, exhibits some interesting characters, and the atmosphere, some striking phenomena. Of these, the power the ice exerts on the wind,—on aqueous vapour,—on the colour of the sky,—and on the temperature of the air, are the most prominent; and of those, accordingly as the ice or swell has the ascendancy, the results are varied and remarkable.

1. When the wind blows forcibly across a solid pack or field of ice, its power is much diminished ere it traverses many miles: in-somuch, that a storm will frequently blow for several hours on one side of a field, before it be perceptible on the other; and, while a storm prevails in open water, ships beset within sight will not experience one-half of its severity.

It is not uncommon for the ice to produce the effect of repulsing and balancing an assailing wind. Thus, when a severe storm blows from the sea, directly towards the main body of ice, an opposite current will sometimes prevail on

the borders of the ice; and such conflicting winds have been observed to counterpoise each other a few furlongs distant from the ice, for several hours: the violence of the one being, as it were, subdued by the frigorific repulsion and lesser force of the other. The effect resulting, is singular and manifest.

2. The moist and temperate gale from the southward, becomes chilled on commixture with the northern breeze, and discharges its surplus humidity in the thickest snow. As the quantity of the snow depends considerably on the difference of temperature of the two assimilating streams of air, it follows, that the largest proportion must be precipitated on the exterior of the main body of ice, where the contrast of temperature is the greatest: and since that contrast must be gradually diminished, as the air passes over the gelid surface of the ice, much of its superabundant moisture must generally be discharged before it reaches the interior. Hence we can account for the fewness of the clouds,—the consequent brightness of the atmosphere,—and the rareness of storms, in situations far immured among the northern ice.

From this consideration, it might be supposed, that after the precipitation of a certain small depth of snow on the interior ice, the atmosphere could alone replenish its moisture from the same surface, and that whatever changes of temperature might occur, it could only discharge the same again: or, in other words, that the very same moisture would be alternately evaporated and deposited,

sited, without a possibility of adding to a limited depth of snow. Now this would assuredly be the case, if nothing more than the same moisture evaporated from the snowy surface of ice were again deposited. But, it must be observed, that notwithstanding winds from the north, east, or west, may not furnish any considerable quantity of snow; and that although those warm and humid storms which blow from the south, may afford a large proportion of their humidity to the exterior ice; yet, as the temperature of the northern regions would be gradually elevated by the long continuance of a southerly gale, the advance of the wind must in consequence be farther and farther before it be reduced to the temperature of the ice; and, therefore, some snow would continue to be precipitated to an increasing and unlimited extent.

Hence, as winds blowing from the north must be replaced by air neither colder nor less damp, and as every commixture with warmer streams must produce an increased capacity for moisture; therefore no wind can occasion a detraction of vapour from the circumpolar regions: on the contrary, as the snow deposited on the interior ice by southerly storms, (from the nature of the circumstances), must be derived from evaporations out of the sea; it is evident, that there must be an increase of snow in the icy latitudes, and that we cannot possibly determine any limit beyond which it may be affirmed that no snow can be deposited.

3. On approaching a pack, field, or other compact aggregation of

ice, the phenomenon of the ice-blink is seen whenever the horizon is tolerably free from clouds, and in some cases even under a thick sky. The ice-blink consists in a stratum of a lucid whiteness, which appears in that part of the atmosphere next the horizon. It is evidently occasioned thus: those rays of light which strike on the snowy surface of the ice, are reflected into the superincumbent air, where they become visible; but the light which falls on the sea is in a great measure absorbed, and the superincumbent air retains its native ethereal hue. Hence, when the ice-blink occurs under the most favourable circumstances, it affords to the eye a beautiful and perfect map of the ice, 20 or 30 miles beyond the limit of direct vision, but less distinct in proportion as the air is hazy. The ice-blink not only shews the figure of the ice, but enables the experienced observer to judge, whether the ice thus pictured be field or packed ice: if the latter, whether it be compact or open, bay or heavy ice. Field ice affords the most lucid blink, accompanied with a tinge of yellow; that of packs is more purely white; and of bay ice greyish. The land, on account of its snowy covering, likewise occasions a blink, which is yellowish, and not much unlike that produced by the ice of fields.

4. The ice operates as a powerful equaliser of temperature. In the 80th degree of north latitude, at the edge of the main body of ice, with a northerly gale of wind, the cold is not sensibly greater than in the 70th degree, under similar circumstances.

5. The reciprocal action of the ice

ice and the sea on each other, is particularly striking, whichever may have the ascendancy. If, on the one hand, the ice be arranged with a certain form of aggregation, and in due solidity, it becomes capable of resisting the turbulence of the ocean, and can, with but little comparative diminution or breaking, suppress its most violent surges. Its resistance is so effectual, that ships sheltered by it rarely find the sea disturbed by swells. On the other hand, the most formidable fields yield to the slightest grown swell, and become disrupted into thousands of pieces; and ice of only a few weeks growth, on being assailed by a turbulent sea, is broken and annihilated with incredible celerity. Ice, which for weeks has been an increasing pest to the whale-fisher, is sometimes removed in the space of a few hours. The destruction is in many cases so rapid, that to an inexperienced observer, the occurrence seems incredible, and rather an illusion of fancy, than a matter of fact. Suppose a ship immoveably fixed in bay ice, and not the smallest opening to be seen: after a lapse of time sufficient only for a moderate repose, imagine a person rising from his bed,—when, behold, the insurmountable obstacle has vanished! Instead of a sheet of ice expanding unbroken to the verge of the horizon on every side, an undulating sea relieves the prospect, wherein floats the wreck of the ice, reduced apparently to a small fraction of its original bulk! This singular occurrence I have more than once been a witness to.

That ice should be forming or increasing, when exposed to the

swells of the ocean, while the annihilation of bay ice is so sudden and complete, might seem an anomaly or impossibility, were the circumstances passed over in silence. It must be observed, that the operation of a swell is merely to rend the bay ice in pieces, while its destruction is principally effected by the attrition of those pieces against each other, and the washing of the wind-lipper. Herein the essential difference consists: pancake ice is formed in masses so small and so strong, that the swell will not divide them; and the effect of the wind-lipper is repressed by the formation of sludge on its seaward margin. Hence whenever ice does occur in agitated waters, its exterior is always sludge, and its interior pancake ice, the pieces of which gradually increase in size with the distance from the edge.

When a swell occurs in crowded, yet detached ice, accompanied with thick weather and storm, it presents one of the most dangerous and terrific navigations that can be conceived. Each lump of ice, by its laborious motion, and its violent concussions of the water, becomes buried in foam, which, with its rapid drift, and the attendant horrid noise, inspires the passing mariner with the most alarming impressions; whilst the scene before him is, if possible, rendered more awful by his consciousness of the many disasters which have been occasioned by similar dangers.

On the approximations towards the Poles, and on the possibility of reaching the North Pole.

Although I am sensible, that
already

already I have trespassed too much upon the Society, in the unexpected extent of this paper, I nevertheless cannot think of dismissing the subject, without completing my original plan, by noticing the comparative approximations towards the Poles, which have been effected on different meridians; and at the same time offering, with diffidence, a few remarks on the possibility of travelling to the North Pole, together with a sketch of the reasoning on which the probability of success depends.

First, It has already been remarked, that the 80th degree of north latitude is almost annually accessible to the Greenland whale-fishers, and that this latitude, on particular occasions, has been exceeded. On one of the first attempts which appears to have been made to explore the circumpolar regions, in the year 1607, Henry Hudson penetrated the ice on the north-western coast of Spitzbergen to the latitude of $80^{\circ} 23'$ N. In 1773, Captain Phipps, on "a voyage towards the North Pole," advanced on a similar track to $80^{\circ} 37'$ of north latitude. In the year 1806, the ship *Resolution* of Whitby, commanded by my Father, (whose extraordinary perseverance and nautical ability are well appreciated by those in the Greenland trade, and proved by his never-failing success), was forced, by astonishing efforts, through a vast body of ice, which commenced in the place of the usual barrier, but exceeded its general extent by at least a hundred miles. We then reached a navigable sea, and advanced without hinderance to the latitude of $81\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ north, a distance of only 170 leagues from

the Pole; which is, I imagine, one of the most extraordinary approximations yet realised.

In Hudson's Bay, between the longitudes of 50° and 80° west, ships can seldom advance beyond the 74th degree of north latitude; and only one instance is upon record, wherein the extremity of the bay in 78° N. has been explored.

In Behring's Straits, the adventurous Cook, on the meridian of $161\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. (very near the American coast), advanced to the latitude of $70^{\circ} 44'$ N., on the 18th of August 1778; and on the 26th, in longitude 176° W. they were stopped by the ice in $69^{\circ} 45'$ N. After his lamentable death, Captain Clerke directed the proceedings in the following year, and reached the latitude of $70^{\circ} 33'$ on the 18th of July, being about four leagues short of their former advance.

The southern hemisphere, towards the Pole, was likewise explored by Captain Cook on a former voyage, on various meridians, and with indefatigable perseverance. On his first attempt in 1772, they met with ice in about 51° south, and longitude 21° east. They saw great fields in 55° south on the 17th of January 1773, and on February the 24th, were stopped by field-ice in 62° south latitude, and 95° east longitude.

Again, on the second attempt in December of the same year, they first met with ice in about 62° south latitude, and 172° - 173° west longitude; and on the 15th, saw field ice in latitude 66° . On the 30th of January 1774, they were stopped by immense ice-fields

fields in latitude $71^{\circ} 10' 30''$, and 107° west longitude, which was the most considerable approximation towards the South Pole that had ever been effected.

Thus, it appears, that there subsists a remarkable difference between the two hemispheres, with regard to the approach of the ice towards the equator; the ice of the southern being much less pervious, and extending to much lower latitudes, than that of the northern hemisphere:—

That the 73d or 74th degree of north latitude can be attained at any season of the year; whereas the 71st degree of south latitude, has been but once passed:—And,

That, whilst the antarctic *ne plus ultra* appears to be the 72d degree of latitude, that of the arctic extends full 600 miles further; the nearest approach to the South Pole being a distance of 1130 miles, but to the North, only 510 miles.

Lastly, With regard to the probability of exploring the regions more immediately in the vicinity of the Pole than has yet been accomplished, or even of reaching the Pole itself,—I anticipate, that without reference to the reasoning on which the opinion is grounded, it might be deemed the frenzied speculation of a disordered fancy. I flatter myself, however, that I shall be able to satisfy the Society, that the performance of a journey, over a surface of ice, from the north of Spitzbergen to the Pole, is a project which might be undertaken with at least a probability of success.

It must be allowed, that many known difficulties would require to be surmounted,—many dangers

to be encountered,—and that some circumstances might possibly occur, which would at once annul the success of the undertaking. Of these classes of objections, the following strike me as being the most formidable, which, after briefly stating, I shall individually consider in their order:

1. The difficulty of performing a journey of 1200 miles, 600 going and 600 returning, over a surface of ice,—of procuring a sufficient conveyance,—and of carrying a necessary supply of provisions and apparatus, as well as attendants.

The difficulty may be increased by

(a.) Soft snow;

(b.) Want of the continuity of the ice;

(c.) Rough ice; and

(d.) Mountainous ice.

2. The difficulty of ascertaining the route, and especially of the return, arising from the perpendicularity of the magnetical needle.

3. Dangers to be apprehended,

(a) From excessive cold;

(b.) From wild beasts.

4. Impediments which would frustrate the scheme:

(a.) Mountainous land;

(b.) Expanse of sea;

(c.) Constant cloudy atmosphere.

1. It is evident that a journey of 1200 miles, under the existing difficulties, would be too arduous a task to be undertaken and performed by human exertions alone, but would require the assistance of some fleet quadrupeds, accustomed to the harness.

Rein-deer, or dogs, appear to be the most appropriate. If the former could sustain a sea voyage, they might be refreshed on the northern

northern part of Spitzbergen, which affords their natural food. They could be yoked to sledges framed of the lightest materials, adapted for the accommodation of the adventurers, and the conveyance of the requisites. The provisions for the adventurers, for compactness, might consist of portable soups, potted meats, &c., and compressed lichen for the rein-deer. The instruments and apparatus might be in a great measure confined to indispensables, and those of the most portable kinds; such as tents, defensive weapons, sextants, chronometers, magnetic needles, thermometers, &c.

As the rein-deer is, however, a delicate animal, difficult to guide, and might be troublesome if thin or broken ice were required to be passed,—dogs would seem in some respects to be preferable. In either case, the animals must be procured from the countries wherein they are trained, and drivers would probably be required with them. The journey might be accelerated by expanding a sail to every favourable breeze, at the same time the animals would be relieved from the oppression of their draught. It would appear from the reputed speed of the rein-deer, that, under favourable circumstances, the journey might be accomplished even in a fortnight, allowing time for rest and accidental delays. It would require a month or six weeks with dogs, at a moderate speed; and, in the event of the failure of these animals on the journey, it does not seem impossible that the return should be effected on foot, with

sledges for the provisions and apparatus.

(a.) Soft snow would diminish the speed, and augment the fatigue of the animal; to avoid which, therefore, it would be necessary to set out by the close of the month of April or the beginning of May; or, at least, some time before the severity of the frost should be too greatly relaxed.

(b.) Want of continuity of the ice, would certainly occasion a troublesome interruption; it might nevertheless be overcome, by having the sledges adapted to answer the purpose of boats; and it is to be expected, that although openings amidst the ice should occur, yet a winding course might in general be pursued, so as to prevent any very great stoppage.

(c.) Many of the most prodigious fields are entirely free from abrupt hummocks, from one extremity to the other, and field ice, as it appears in general, would be easily passable.

(d.) The degree of interruption from mountainous ice, would depend on the quality of its surface.

If, as is most probable, it were smooth, and free from abrupt slopes, it would not prevent the success of the expedition.

2. The direct route would be pointed out, for some part of the way at least, by the magnetic needle; and when its pole should be directed towards the zenith, should that position ever obtain, the sun would be the only guide. Or, the position of the true north being once ascertained, three sledges on a line, at a convenient distance apart, might enable the
leading

leading one to keep a direct course. A chronometer would be an indispensable requisite, as the opportunity for lunar observations could not be expected to occur sufficiently often. Were the Pole gained, the bearing of the sun at the time of noon, by a chronometer adjusted to the meridian of North-west Spitzbergen, would afford a line of direction for the return; and, the position in regard to longitude (were the sun visible) could be corrected, at least twice a-day, as the latitude decreased. The degrees of longitude being so contracted, any required position would be pointed out by the watch, with the greatest precision.

3. (a.) Among the dangers to be apprehended, the coldness of the air stands prominent. As, however, the cold is not sensibly different between the latitudes of 70° and 80° with a strong north wind, it may be presumed that at the Pole itself, it would be very little more oppressive than at the borders of the main ice, in the 81st degree of north latitude, under a hard northerly gale: and since this cold is supportable, that of the Pole may be deemed so likewise. The injurious effects of the severity of the weather, might be avoided by a judicious choice of woollen clothing; the external air being met by an outward garment of varnished silk, and the face defended by a mask, with eyes of glass. The exterior garment would, at the same time, be water-proof, and thus capable of shielding the body from accidental moisture.

(b.) The white bear is the only

ferocious animal known to inhabit those regions, and he rarely makes an attack upon man. At any rate, he might be repulsed by any offensive weapon. And, as the prey of the bears is scarce in the most northern latitudes, they would not probably occur in any abundance.

4. Hitherto no insurmountable objection has been presented: a few serious obstacles, should they occur, remain to be considered.

(a.) Mountainous land, like mountainous ice, would check the progress of the expedition, in proportion to the ruggedness of its surface, and the steepness of its cliffs. Its occurrence would, nevertheless, form an interesting discovery.

(b.) From the pretended excursions of the Dutch, many have believed that the sea at the Pole is free from ice; were this really the case, the circumstance would certainly be an extraordinary one; but I consider it too improbable to render it necessary to hazard any opinion concerning it.

(c.) From the facts stated in pages 319, 320 of this paper, I think we derive a sanction for calculating on clear weather at all times but with southerly storms; and as these occur but rarely, the progress of the journey would not probably be suspended by an obscure sky, except for short periods and at distant intervals.

Notwithstanding I have now distinctly considered every obvious objection and difficulty to be surmounted, I am nevertheless sensible, that in the realising of any project for discovery, whether at sea or on land, there will occur many adventitious circumstances which

which may tend to mar the progress of the best regulated expedition. Therefore, it may not be improper to confirm and strengthen the whole, by directing the attention to what has been done, in journeying under difficulties which may bear a comparison with the undertaking here alluded to, and occasionally under circumstances the most unfavourable for success.

1st. When treating of icebergs, I alluded to the journey of Alexei Markoff, in which it appears, that he performed near eight hundred miles across a surface of packed ice, in the spring of 1715, in a sledge drawn by dogs; and consequently, that he might be supposed to have encountered the principal difficulties that could be expected in the proposed scheme, whilst we have the advantage of improving by his experience.

2d. Speaking of the southwestern tendency of the ice, I have also noticed the loss of several of the Dutch Greenland fleet in 1777, from which we learn, that part of the unfortunate suffering crews, under every privation of provision and clothing, and exposed to the severity of an arctic winter, accomplished a journey on foot, along the coasts of Old Greenland, from the east side near Staten-Hook to the Danish settlements on the west, a distance of near a hundred leagues.

3d. On contrasting the projected polar journey with the catalogue of marvellous occurrences, and wonderful preservations which are exhibited in the records of maritime disasters, the difficulties of the undertaking in a great measure vanish, and its dangers are eclipsed, by the wonderful re-

sults which necessity has in various instances accomplished.

PERSIAN GULF.

Discovery of Eight Islands.

(From the Asiatic Journal.)

We publish for general information, the following observations received from the Hon. James Ashley Maude, Captain of His Majesty's ship *Favourite*, in regard to the situation and appearance of eight islands discovered by him on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of July, 1816, in the Persian Gulph, during a cruize for general protection of the trade.

“ The situation and appearance of eight islands on the Arab ianside in the Gulph of Persia, not laid down in any of the charts; the names of which are Arabic, and the latitudes and longitudes of each taken from cross bearings, the latter by chronometer; seen by his Majesty's ship *Favourite*, the Hon. James Ashley Maude, captain, during a cruize for the general protection of trade in the Gulph, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of July, 1816.—

Dauss.—In latitude $25^{\circ} 10' N.$ longitude per chronometer $52^{\circ} 45' E.$ bearing SE distance 4 leagues, appears of a moderate height with a few small hummocks, and southwestern extremity a low sandy point six or seven miles in length, no trees, and soil a metallic appearance; in passing it, distance off shore four or five leagues, we had from 13 to 18 fathoms, coarse sand with a few overfalls.

Jarnain Island.—South easterly direction found *Dauss* is in latitude $25^{\circ} 8' N.$ longitude, per chronometer, $52^{\circ} 55' E.$ bearing SE.

by S. five or six leagues, has three high hummocks nearly of an equal height, two on the northern extremity and one more to the southward. The haze of the atmosphere was too great to observe whether the extremities were low, apparently no vegetation, hills formed of a metallic substance.

Arzenie Island. — West south westerly direction from Jarnain in latitude $24^{\circ} 56'$ N. longitude, per chronometer $52^{\circ} 33'$ E. bearing SSW. nine miles, is rather high, a rugged appearance. About a cable's length off the eastern and western extremities there are two rocks a little above water; and on the north-east side a shoal extends nearly a mile from the shore, composed of rocks and coral sand. The Favourite anchored under this island, with the centre of the island bearing S. by E $\frac{1}{2}$ E. five or six miles in $12\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms, fine coral sand and shells.

I could not discover any fresh water on this island, but from ravines occasioned from the heavy rains, I have no doubt by sinking wells, water might be procured. The soil consists of metallic substance, no trees, and only a few herbs; the southern side exceedingly rugged, and in breadth I imagine two or three miles, and seven miles in length, which terminates to the WSW. in a low sandy point.

Dalmy Island. — South westerly direction from Arzenie in latitude $24^{\circ} 36'$ N. longitude, per chronometer, $52^{\circ} 24'$ E. bearing SW. $\frac{3}{4}$ S. four leagues, appears rather high; darker colour than the former island; has to the northward a round hill, below which the boundary is bluff but not high; the

northern extremity terminates in a low sand, off which a shoal extends nearly two miles, and ought not to be approached under seven fathoms, as the overfalls are sudden; to the south eastward the island is nearly of an equal height, two or three hummocks above a very low sandy point from north to south, and is about six miles in length, beyond which the pilot informed me a shoal extends to a considerable distance; and it is recommended not to go to the southward of this island, as the overfalls are sudden, and several small islands and sand-banks extend from the Main, which is said to be very low, and distant twenty miles to the southward of this island.

The channel between Arzenie and Dalmy is perfectly clear of shoals, but the overfalls are sudden from 15 to 21 and 12 to 7 fathoms, fine coral sand.

Seer Beni Yass Island. — South easterly direction from Dalmy, in latitude $24^{\circ} 34'$ N. longitude, per chronometer, $52^{\circ} 40'$ E. bearing SE. by S. five leagues, rather high in the center, and very rugged appearance terminating to the north western extremity in a low sandy point, apparently seven or eight miles in length.

The pilot informed me the point nearly joins the main land, leaving a narrow channel only navigable for small pearl boats. The whole coast to the westward being very low, off which there are several small islands, and they are considered dangerous to approach. The channel between Arzenie and Seer Beni Yass is deemed safe by the pilot.

Danie Island. — North westerly direction

direction from Dalmy, in latitude $25^{\circ} 1' N.$ longitude, per chronometer, $52^{\circ} 20' E.$ is very low, nearly on a level with the sea, about two miles in length, and very narrow; the colour of the sand so nearly resembles the horizon in hazy weather, that great caution and a good look-out are requisite when approaching it.

Sherarou Island.—To the north westerly direction of Danie, in latitude $25^{\circ} 13' N.$ longitude, per chronometer, $52^{\circ} 18' E.$ bearing NNW. 12 miles, appears low, with two small hummocks on each extremity; and off the northern point, at half a mile, a small rock projects above water, and a few smaller rocks off some white sandy bays at the foot of the hummocks, which appear formed of dark metallic substance: the island is narrow, and about three or four miles in length: in a north-western direction from this isle, the coast ought to be approached with care, as it is very low, but said to be clear of shoals.

The channel between Danie and Sherarou is clear of shoals, but the overfalls are rather sudden; but we had not less than 34 fathoms, sand and a mixture of white coral.

Hawlool Island.—North easterly direction of Sherarou, in latitude $25^{\circ} 41' N.$ longitude, per chronometer, $52^{\circ} 23' E.$ bearing NNW. distance 10 miles, appears high in the centre, gradually decreasing at each extremity; no trees and no appearance of vegetation; the water deep close too.

The above described islands ap-

pear formed of the same metallic substance as the islands of Polior, the tombs, &c. &c. off the Persian side of the Gulph, of a brownish colour, their base being formed of coral. They are said not to produce any good fresh water; but, by digging wells, I have every reason to imagine from the appearance of the soil, and what I witnessed on the island of Arzenie, the rain having formed high banks by the rapidity of its torrents, good water might be procured. I do not imagine any of these islands are equal to much cultivation without the aid of considerable industry; but their situation appears particularly convenient, as they are placed nearly in the centre of a very extensive pearl fishery, on which the finest pearls in the world are produced—the season for the fishery from April to September: the extent of the bank is 200 miles in length, east and west, and north and south 70 miles.

The exact position of these islands I am afraid will not be found quite accurate, as their positions are stated merely from cross bearings, and the strongly heated atmosphere had considerably affected the rate of my chronometer; and the sun and moon not being within distance together, with occasionally hazy weather, caused some difficulty to be surmounted with respect to judging of the imaginary distance off shore, but I hope their situations are sufficiently accurate to render the strangers to this side of the Gulph some assistance in navigating their vessels.

Dauss	{ Lat. 25° 10' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 45' E.
Jarnain	{ Lat. 25° 8' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 55'.
Arzenie	{ Lat. 24° 56' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 33' Variation.
Dalmy	{ Lat. 24° 56' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 42', July 13th, 4° 47' W.
Seer Beni Yass	{ Lat. 24° 34' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 40', July 14th, 4° 39' W.
Danie	{ Lat. 25° 1' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 20', July 15th, 3° 59' W.
Sherarow	{ Lat. 52° 13' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 15'.
Hawloul	{ Lat. 25° 41' N.
	{ Long. per chro. 52° 23'.

J. A. MAUDE, Captain."

AN ACCOUNT OF A RHINOCEROS
HUNT IN INDIA.

(From the same.)

Rhinoceros hunting has, I believe, seldom been painted, though I have known several sportsmen who have had good opportunities of doing so; perhaps, therefore, an account of a day lately passed in this noble but dangerous diversion, may afford some gratification to your sporting readers. On the 25th ult. our Shekarries (or huntsmen), whom we had sent for information, brought us intelligence of a herd of seven or eight rhinoceros having taken up their abode in a large swamp, in a village near Baragur, in the Nepal territory.—On reaching the spot with our elephants, seven in number, and our shooting apparatus, we found that either side of the lake for about two hundred yards was clothed with glorious jungle or brushwood for every kind of savage game; forming a cover of nearly ten feet in height. We had

seven guns, chiefly double barrelled; five of the latter four-ounce rifles. Soon after our party (four in number) had entered the jungle, the piping of the elephants, and the prints of rhinoceros' feet, shewed our game to be near; and indeed in less than a few minutes we started two young ones, about the size of a full-grown neel-ghae (a species of elk) and not unlike that animal in colour. The first fire killed one, and wounded the other severely, which, notwithstanding, went off at a smart elk trot, howling in a most hideous manner. The old ones were soon collected round us by the cries of their young, and three males, of monstrous size, and frightful appearance, charged our line with the utmost impetuosity. Two of our elephants gave way, receiving the charge on their hinder parts, and were instantly upset. Those that stood firm were not knocked down, but staggered several paces by the shock: my elephant was one that gave way, and my situation

ation was far from laughable. The elephant often attempted to rise, but was as often laid flat by his antagonist, and at length with such force, that I was thrown several yards into the lake, in a state of utter stupefaction—luckily falling on some willows, I was saved from drowning. I was not sorry, on recovery, to find myself out of reach of the horn of my furious enemy, and of the shots of my friends, who, despairing of my escape, fired without ceremony. Their balls struck the monster's body in several places without producing any effect, though from four-ounce rifles. At last a lucky one broke a large flake from his horn, and caused him to make off, turning through the thickets with astonishing strength and swiftness. We traced his footsteps for some miles, when being convinced that he had taken to the forest, we returned to look after the others, determined to search for him on a future day. On our way back, we found the young one we had wounded in the morning lying dead; both must have been very young, for their horns were scarcely perceptible, and no scales appeared in their breasts or shoulders. It was now past noon, and we had little hopes of finding the others; when, on rounding a point of the lake, we roused them again, and after a chase of more than three hours, killed two, a male and female. They were not so bold now as we had reason to expect. They seemed to have lost their courage with their leader, to whom they were very inferior in size, but still their dimensions astonished us not a little; the largest of them was above six feet

high, and stronger in proportion than any elephant I ever saw; the day was too far spent to admit of our taking a sketch of them, at which we were much vexed, for hitherto, I believe, they have been very unfaithfully represented. No elephants but males of superior courage should be employed in this desperate sport. We have another wild animal in this neighbourhood as little known as the rhinoceros. The natives consider it of the elk kind, but it has no characteristic of this or any of the species of deer I have seen or read of; the horns of the male are remarkably thick and short; in every other respect they resemble more an English brindled bull. They are exceedingly shy and solitary; seldom seen but on a bare inaccessible rock.

Camp, NE. Frontier, May 1815.

EXPLOITS OF A LION SHOOTING
PARTY OF ENGLISH GENTLEMEN,

At Barcda, 26th June, 1816.

(From the same.)

A report was brought by a cultivator, about eight o'clock yesterday morning, of two large tigers having taken up their abode the preceding night in a garden, within a mile of the west extremity of the town. The gentlemen of the residency, after a hasty breakfast, anxiously prepared rifles, fuzes, and muskets, and attended by ten Sepoys of the Resident's escort, went forth in search of the animals. The place in which they were said to have taken shelter was covered by bushes of the mogri flower plant extremely thick, and standing about four feet high,
with

with narrow pathways, occasionally intersected by hedges of the prickly milk bush, and low and thick ramifications of the aloe tree.

The party beat about the jungle (for it had this appearance, rather than that of a garden), when by great good fortune it had a glimpse of one of the animals making off with some rapidity. It was first taken for a large grown calf; a misconception very natural, as the sequel will shew, and as by the report of the morning, the party expected to meet with tigers. The appearance of the animal, however, gave a stimulus to the exertions of the gentlemen, who moved forward in the low jungle, surveying every bush, and expecting each instant to hear a tremendous roar, or perhaps to encounter the savage attacks of the animals. Little more search brought the two beasts in full view, when one of them started off, receiving a ball from a gentleman in the side. It went rapidly past two others of the party, and was wounded by a single shot in the flank. These wounds appeared to have produced no decided effect, and a quarter of an hour had elapsed before it was again discovered crouching in a thick plantation of aloe trees. It was here that a few Sepoys and one of the gentlemen advancing within eight paces, brought the beast prostrate on the ground; when, for the first time, considering the indistinct view obtained in the low jungle, during the pursuit, it was found that instead of tigers the objects of the chase were lions of considerable size! Some danger attended the death of this animal, (which was a lioness) as

the other party were diametrically opposite to the aloe plantation when the volley was fired into it. The balls whistled over their heads and around them, but happily without bad consequences to any body.

The success which attended the first hunt, redoubled exertion; and with great management, the party scoured the bushes in search of the lioness's companion. Some time passed, and a great deal of laborious exertion, before the animal was traced by his footsteps to one of the high hedges which intersected the garden. The party approached within eight yards, when, by previous concert, two gentlemen and two sepoy's fired, independently, with effect. The animal moved off immediately on the other side of the hedge, and in ten minutes more, he was discovered lying under another hedge, groaning with rage and pain. Some pieces were instantly fired, which exasperating him, he rushed out, and nobly charged his assailants, his tail being curled over his back. In his advance, he was saluted with great coolness with several balls from all the gentlemen, and a few sepoy's of the party who had come up; and though within a few yards of the object of his attack, he suddenly turned off, (it is supposed on account of being severely wounded) and sprung upon a sepoy, detached to the right, with whom he grappled, and afterwards by the violence of the exertion fell to the ground, beyond him.

It was at this moment that the party gallantly, and for the humane purpose of saving a fellow-creature, rushed forward, and with the bayonet and swords put an end to

to the monster. The sepoy was wounded in the left shoulder, but it was hoped that there is no danger of his losing his life.

The complete success of the day was justly calculated to excite many pleasing reflections ; but after all was concluded, it appeared that a countryman, who attended at a distance unarmed, and for his own curiosity, was wounded in the thigh by a ball. This accident has of course damped the pleasure of the sport, though it is but just to remark, that before the party entered into the garden, entreaties were used to the curious bystanders to induce them to keep away from the scene of action, and many were sent off by main force, who afterwards returned in defiance of every remonstrance.

The animal last killed was a lion, not quite full grown, but strong and powerful in his make ; the lioness was in the same proportion.

On being brought to the Residency and inspected, these animals were sent to his Highness Futteh Sing at his own request.

The appearance of tigers in the immediate vicinity of Baroda is not common ; two only having strayed from the ravines of the river Myhie to the enclosures round the town, within the last fifteen years, but lions have never been seen. Indeed the existence of this species in India has been questioned, though since satisfactorily established. It is conjectured that the lions killed yesterday had wandered out of the deep defiles of the Myhie, about twelve miles from Baroda, in the night, which was unusually dark, and attended throughout in the neighbourhood

of that river with torrents of rain. It was fortunate that their retreat was immediately discovered, or from the number of people now employed in cultivation around this populous town, some would in all probability have fallen victims to their voracity.

HISTORY OF THE COCCUS LACCÆ, OR LAC INSECT.

By the late Dr. Kerr.

(From the same.)

The head and trunk of this insect form one uniform, oval, compressed, red body, of the shape and magnitude of a very small louse, consisting of twelve transverse rings ; the back is carinate, the sides are sharp and alate ; the belly is flat ; antennæ, two filiform, truncated, diverging half the length of the body, each sending off two, often three delicate diverging hairs, longer than the antennæ ; the mouth and eyes could not be seen with a common watch-maker's magnifier.

The tail is a little white point, sending off two horizontal hairs as long as the body.

Progression is performed by three pair of limbs, half the length of the animal, forming rectangles at the edge of the trunk ; the transverse rings of the body are capable of a little motion.

I have often observed the birth of those insects, but could never see any with wings, nor could I find any distinction of sexes, unless that trivial difference of the antennæ. Their connubial rites they also kept a secret from me : nature and analogy seem to point out a deficiency in my observations,

tions, possibly owing to the minuteness of the object, and want of proper glasses.

The insect is produced by the parent in the months of November and December; they traverse the branches of the trees upon which they were produced for some time, and then fix themselves upon the succulent extremities of the young branches, sometimes upon the petioles of the leaves, but never on the trunk, or large branches, probably on account of the rigidity of their cuticle, and deficiency of juice.

By the middle of January they are all fixed in their proper situations; they appear as plump as before, but shew no other signs of life. The limbs, antennæ, and sitæ of the tail are no longer to be seen around the edges; they are environed with a spissid, sub-pelucid liquid, which seems to glue them to the branch; it is the gradual accumulation of this liquid which forms a strong and complete castle for each insect, and is what is called gum lac, so useful to the arts of men, as well as the preservation of this valuable insect.

I had no opportunity of seeing the operations of this insect, from the 25th of January until the 16th of March, when the cells were completely formed over the insect; they had the appearance of an oval, or rather subrotund, smooth red bag without life, about the size of a small cochineal insect, emarginated at the obtuse end, full of a beautiful red liquid, seemingly contained in cellulæ, as in the albumen ovi. At this time the young insects cannot be distinguished in the fluid. Here again there is a blank in my ob-

servations; I did not see the insect until November, when the sells and insects were at their full size; and we find a vast number of little oblong red bodies, intermixed with the red fluid of the mother; these are the young offspring, each enveloped in its proper membrane; when all the red liquid is expended, they throw off their membranous coverings, and pierce a hole through the side of the mother, and superior part of the cell, and walk off one by one to a distant part of the branch, leaving their exuviæ behind, which is that white substance found in the empty cells of the stick lac.

Those insects are the parasitic inhabitants of three different trees, viz.—

1st. *Ficus Religiosa*, Bengali Pipul, Anglice Banian tree.—2d. *Ficus Bengalensis*, in Bengali Bhur, Anglice Banian tree.—The third is a valuable tree called Pros or Pras by the natives.

The insects fix themselves so close together, and in such numbers, that I imagine only one in six can have room enough to complete her cell; the others die, and are eat up by various insects. The extreme branches appear as if they were covered with a red dust, and their sap so much exhausted, that they generally wither, produce no fruit, and the leaves drop, or turn to a dirty black colour. The insects are transported, I imagine, by birds; if they perch upon these branches they must carry off a number of those insects upon their feet, to the next tree they rest upon. It is worth observing, that these fig-trees, when wounded, drop a milky juice, which instantly coagulates

gulates into a viscid, ropy substance, which, hardened in the open air, is similar to the cell of the coccus laccae. The natives boil this fig milk with oils into a birdlime which will hold peacocks or the largest birds; in the same manner a red medicinal gum is produced from the wounded prass tree, so similar to the gum lac, that it may readily be taken for the same substance; hence it is probable that those insects have little trouble in animalizing the sap of these plants in the formation of their cells.

The gum lac is said to be produced from the ber or beyer tree, which is frequent in this country; it is the *rhamnus jujuba* Linnæi, or jujube tree; I will not deny the fact, but what has been shewn to me as such, was a substance very different from the lac: there is a fungous excrescence frequently grows from the small branches of this tree, the little tender granulations of which are at first covered with a red bloom, which soon turns black, and neither contains insects, lac, nor colour, that ever I could find, even with the utmost care in my inquiries. This tree is much frequented by ants, flies, and various insects, which destroy the flowers, leaves and fruit; this mistake has probably led Bontius, father Tac-hard, and their copiers into error.

The lac of this country is principally found upon the uncultivated mountains on both sides of the Ganges, where bountiful nature has produced it in such prodigious abundance, that was the consumption ten times greater the markets might be supplied by this minute insect! The only trouble

in procuring the lac, is in breaking down the branches, and carrying the sticks to market; the present price in Dacca is about 12 shillings the hundred weight, and it is brought from the distant country of Asam! The best lac is of a deep red colour; if it is pale and pierced at the top, the value diminishes, because the insects have left their cells, and consequently, they can be of no use as a dye or colour, but probably they are better for varnishes.

The insect and its cell has gone under the various names of gum lac, lac tree, in Bengali, lac sand; by the English it is distinguished into,—1. Stick lac; which is the natural state from which all the others are formed;—2. Seed lac, is the cells separated from the sticks;—3. Lump lac, is seed lac liquified by fire, and formed into cakes; 4. Shell lac, is the cells liquified, strained, and formed into thin transparent laminae, in the following manner:—separate the cells from the branches, break them into small pieces, throw them into a tub of water for one day; wash off the red water and dry the cells, and with them fill a cylindrical tube of cotton cloth, two feet long and an inch and a half diameter, tie both ends, turn the bag above a charcoal fire; as the lac liquifies, twist the bag, and when a sufficient quantity has transuded the pores of the cloth, lay it upon a smooth junk of plantain tree (*musa paradisiaca* Linnæi) and with a strip of the plantain leaf draw it into a thin lamina, take it off while flexible, for in a minute it will be hard and brittle; the value of shell lac is according to its transparency.

This

This is one of the most useful insects yet discovered, to Europeans or natives. The natives consume a great quantity of shell lac in making ornamental rings, painted and gilded in various tastes, to decorate the black arms of the ladies, and formed into beads, spiral and linked chains for necklaces, and other ornaments for the hair.

Sealing-wax.—Take a stick and heat one end of it upon a charcoal fire, put upon it a few leaves of the shell lac, softened above the fire; keep alternately heating and adding more shell lac, until you have got a mass of three or four pounds of liquified shell lac upon the end of your stick; knead this upon a wetted board, with three ounces of levigated cinnabar; form it into cylindrical pieces, and to give them a polish, rub them while hot with a cotton cloth.

Japanning.—Take a lump of shell lac, prepared in the manner of sealing wax, with whatever colour you please; fix it upon the end of a stick; heat the polished wood over a charcoal fire, and rub it over with half melted lac, and polish by rubbing it even with a piece of folded plantain leaf held in the hand, heating the lac, and adding more as occasion requires; their figures are formed by lac charged with various colours, in the same manner.

In ornamenting their gods and religious houses, &c. they make use of very thin beat lead, which they cover with various varnishes, made of lac charged with colours; they prepare them, it is said, with alum and tamarinds; the leaf of lead is laid upon a smooth iron heated by fire below, while the

varnish is spreading upon it; to imitate gold leaf they add turmeric to the varnish. This art is only known to the women of a few families.

Cutler's Grindstones.—Take of Ganges sand three parts, of seed lac washed one part; mix them over the fire in an earthen pot, and form the mass into the shape of a grindstone, leaving a square hole in the centre; fix it on an axis, with liquified lac; heat the stone moderately, and by turning the axis you may easily form it into an exact orbicular shape; polishing grindstones are made only of such of the sand as will pass easily through muslin, in the proportion of two parts sand to one of lac. This sand is found at Rajamahall; it is composed of small, regular, crystalline particles, tinged red with iron two parts, to one of the black magnetic sand described by Muschenbrook.

The stone-cutters make their grindstones of a crystalline stone with black iron specks (corund) beat into powder, and mixed with lac, in the same proportions as with the sand; the coarse for cutting, and the sifted powder for polishing. These grindstones cut down iron very fast, and when they want to increase its power, they throw sand upon it, and let it occasionally touch the edge of a vitrified brick. The same composition is formed upon stick for cutting stones, shells, &c. by the hand.

Painting.—Take one gallon of the red liquid, from the first washing of shell lac, strain it through a cloth, boil it for a short time, then add half [an ounce of soap
earth

earth (fossil alkali); boil an hour more, and add three ounces of powdered load (a straw coloured bark); boil a short time, let it stand one night, and strain next day; evaporate three quarts of milk without cream to two quarts, upon a slow fire, curdle it with sour milk, and let it stand for a day or two; then mix it with the red liquid above mentioned; strain them through a cloth, add to the mixture an ounce and a half of alum, and the juice of eight or ten lemons; mix the whole, and throw it into a cloth bag strainer. The blood of the insect forms a coagulum with the caseous part of the milk, and remains in the bag, while the limpid acid water drains from it; the coagulum is dried in the shade, and is used as a red colour in painting and colouring.

Dyeing.—Take one gallon of the red liquid prepared as in the preceding page, without milk; to which add three ounces of alum; boil three or four pounds of tamarinds in a gallon of water, and strain the liquor.

Light Red.—Mix equal parts of the red liquid water and tamarind water over a brisk fire; in this mixture dip and wring the silk alternately, until it has received a proper quantity of the dye. To increase the colour increase the proportion of the red liquid, and let the silk boil a few minutes in the mixture. To make the silk hold the colour, they boil a handful of the bark called Load in water; strain the decoction, and add cold water to it; dip the dyed silk into this liquor several times, and then dry the silk. Cotton cloths are dyed in this manner, but the dye is not so lasting as in silk.

Spanish Wool.—The lac colour is preserved by the natives upon flakes of cotton dipped repeatedly into a strong solution of the lac insect in water, and dried.

Here I ought to have described the utilities of this body, as practised by Europeans, but I am not master of the subject, and shall be very glad to see it done by an abler hand. The properties of bodies should be as fully described as possible, for therein consists the principal utility of natural history. The present mode of describing natural productions merely as *materiae medicæ*, *pictoriæ*, &c. is in my opinion highly injurious to the subject, trifling, unbecoming a natural historian, and is the cause of a great evil.

To be added.—After the grindstones, the gross remains after making shell lac is formed into balls, polished and painted for boys and men to play with, as our boys do with marbles. Perhaps in this consists the secret art of making the European marbles.

Added after Dying.—The dye is used in colouring that red powder with which the Hindus bespatter one another in their holy festival time.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BIDDERY WARE.

By Benj. Heyne, M.D. Naturalist to the Hon. East India Company at Madras.

(From the same.)

The Hindoos have since time immemorial not only excelled their neighbours in the management of metals for useful and curious purposes, but they are even familiarly acquainted

acquainted with alloys unknown to our practical chemists.

Among those in general use that have drawn the attention of Europeans living in India, are the alloys for the gurry, and the Biddery ware.

The gurry is a disk of a cubit and upwards in diameter, about half an inch in thickness in the centre, but decreasing towards the circumference, where it is scarcely more than one-fourth of an inch. It is used to mark the divisions of time, by striking it with a wooden mallet. The sound is in general remarkably clear, full, and loud, when it is properly managed. In common they are suspended on a triangular pyramid made of three bamboos tied together at top. They are used in all large cities, at the cutwal's choultry, at the houses and cutcheries of great men, at the main guard of every battalion, and head-quarters of every detachment of troops. Some commanding officers have them even near their doors, to the annoyance of their visitors, whose ears are not so blunted and insensible as their own. In short, they are the regulators of time and business over all India. The exact proportion of the compound of which they are made I do not recollect, but I believe it is somewhat variable, as the guries are prized according to the places where they have been manufactured.

The Biddery ware is used particularly for hooka-bottoms, and dishes to hand betel about to visitors, where more precious metals are not attainable. It is of a black colour, which never fades, and which, if tarnished, may be easily restored. To relieve the sable hue

it is always more or less inlaid with silver. It is called Biddery ware from the place where it was originally, and I believe is still exclusively, made; for though the people of Bengal have utensils of this kind, I have no where seen any new ones for sale, which would be the case were they manufactured there.

Biddery is a large city, about sixty miles N.W. from Hyderabad, formerly the seat of mighty kings, and one of the largest, or best places of the Dekan, belonging to the Nizam. It is situated on the eastern brink of a table-land, which is about 100 feet above the level of the surrounding country, and from S. to N. six to eight miles in diameter. The place is fortified, has high walls and extensive outworks, particularly to the northward; but whether strong, or otherwise, I am not competent to judge. I found them very badly guarded; as is generally the case in the fortified places belonging to the native powers of India.

As I had been always very desirous of learning the composition of the Biddery ware, and could get no information of it at Hyderabad, I requested Captain Sydenham, then resident at that court, to favour me with a dustuk (order) to the governor of Biddery, (which place I was to pass on my way to join the detachment at Jaulna,) to assist me in getting the desired knowledge. I must observe here, that it is not only extremely difficult in general for travellers, but almost impossible, without much money, to acquire any information on a subject of the most indifferent nature, without the concurrence and actual support of the head-man

head-man of the place. At Biddery the jealousy against Europeans of all classes is carried so far, that none are allowed to enter the gates of the city, except such as are in the service of the Nizam, and stationed in the fort. It happened fortunately that the chief of that place had some favours to ask of Captain Sydenham, and Mr. Russell, his assistant, whose kind assistance in promoting my inquiries on this and all other occasions I have gratefully to acknowledge: so that I received the dustuk without much delay, just as I ascended the table-land. On producing it at Biddery some of the manufacturers were immediately sent to me in the choultry, under a guard of peons, with the strictest orders that they should inform me of the whole and every part of their mystery. I wished to go to their houses; but as this had not been mentioned in the order, and as they lived in the city, I could not obtain permission. The men who attended me complained of want, in an employment which in former times had been the means of subsisting a numerous class of their own cast, and of enriching the place, but which now scarcely yielded food for five families that remained. They are of the goldsmith cast, which, together with some of other handicrafts, is the lowest of all sudras, though they wear the brahminical string.

At their first visit they brought nothing but a lump of their compound used for casting their ware, and a few vessels which they had just in hand, for inlaying them with silver, an operation which they conceived would be of all the most attractive to a curious fringi.

As the metal in this state was divested of all but its natural colour, I recognized it immediately as a compound of which its greatest portion is tin. It contained of this metal twenty-four parts, and one of copper, joined by fusion. I was herein not a little disappointed, as I had always understood that it was made of a metallic substance found on the table-land of Biddery, and which, as I never had made any experiment with a view of discovering its composition, I flattered myself might be a new mineral. In coming along I really had found also a lithomarga, which resembled the common Biddery ware in colour and appearance; and it was probably this that had given rise to the account which former travellers had given of that substance, as the mineral used for the ware manufactured at that place.

The business of their second visit was to cast, or to make before me, a vessel of their ware. The apparatus which they brought with them on the occasion consisted of a broken earthen pot, to serve as a furnace; a piece of bamboo about a foot long as a bellows, or blow-pipe; a form made of clay, exactly resembling a common hooka-bottom; and some wax, which probably had been used by several generations for the purpose for which it is yet employed.

The first operation was to cover the form with wax on all sides, which was done by winding a band, into which the wax was reduced, as close as possible round it. A thin coat of clay was then laid over the wax, and, to fasten the outer to the inner clay form, some iron pins were driven through it

it in various directions. After this had been dried for some time in the sun, the wax was liquified by putting the form in a place sufficiently heated, and discharged through the hole, by which the melted metal is poured in to occupy its place. It is scarcely necessary to say, that when the metal is sufficiently cooled the form is broken, and the vessel found of the desired shape.

Colouring the ware with the standing black, for which they are celebrated, is the next, and in my opinion the most remarkable operation. It consists in taking equal parts of muriate of ammonia and saltpetre earth, such as is found at the bottom of old mud walls in old and populous villages in India, mixing them together with water, and rubbing the paste which is thus produced on the vessel, which has been previously scraped with a knife. The change of colour is almost instantaneous, and, what is surprising to me, lasting.

The saltpetre earth of this place has, when dry, a reddish colour, like the soil about Biddery. It is very likely that the carbonate, or oxide of iron, which it contains, is essentially necessary for the production of the black colour. The muriate and nitrate of lime, which is in considerable proportion in all earth from which saltpetre is manufactured in India, may be perhaps not an useless ingredient in this respect.

The hooka-bottoms of this ware happen sometimes to get tarnished, acquiring a brownish, or shillering colour, which is easily removed, and the black restored, by rubbing

the whole surface with a little oil or butter.

As nothing looks handsome in the eyes of an Indian, but what is glittering with gold or silver, it may be imagined that their hooka and betel dishes, which are chiefly used on festive occasions, are not left destitute of these ornaments; they are chiefly decorated with silver, in the form of festoons, fanciful flowers, and leaves. Sometimes I have seen a little gold interspersed.

The way of inlaying them is very simple; but of course as tedious as can well be imagined, and could be only practised where time is of little value. The parts of the projected figure are first cut out in silver leaf, which are placed in a piece of broken earthenware before the artist, who cuts with a pointed instrument the same figure on the vessel, applies the silver leaf, piece after piece, and gently hammers it into its place.

The greatest skill consists in tracing the pieces of the figure on the vessel exactly of the same size as they are in the silver leaf, and in this I have never seen them mistaken.

They do their work very expeditiously, and will make any figure on copper with the greatest nicety, according to the sample which is laid before them.

Note.—Mr. Wilkins informed Dr. Heyne that the Biddery ware is likewise manufactured in Benares, and he thinks that zinc is used as an alloy in that part of India. I examined a piece of a metal statue, which Mr. Wilkins considered as Biddery ware: it was zinc alloyed with a very little copper.

USE OF THE COCOA-NUT TREE.

(From the same.)

A cocoa-nut planted in the sandy shore of Ceylon, shews its first shoots above the ground after about three months, and at the end of six is fit for transplantation. No particular care is necessary to rear it; planted in a barren soil, and fanned by the bleak-winds of the ocean, it seems to gain strength from neglect, and fecundity from exposure: notwithstanding these apparent disadvantages, its hardihood surmounts every obstacle, and at the end of six years it begins to bear fruit—and from that period becomes a valuable source of wealth to the possessor. While it continues young, the fruit, or interior of the nut, affords a palatable and nutritive food to the native. The watery liquid within, which we term milk, is a beverage equally pleasant and cooling, and is as agreeable to the palate as invigorating to the body. The juice of the cocoa-nut when mixed with chunam serves to strengthen it, and to increase its adhesive qualities. When older, the cocoa-nut, as it is well known, is used in making curry, and without it, the Cingalese would find himself at a loss for one of the principal ingredients of this his simple, but constant and only food. The nut grown older still, when pressed, yields that oil, which affords almost the only sort of light used in Ceylon; and the nut itself, after the juice is pressed out, is converted into flour, and forms the

chief food of the poultry and other domestic animals.

When the tree has grown to a considerable height, one of the sprouts, which forms what is called the flour, is cut off nearly at its base, leaving, however, a stump sufficiently long for a Chat-ty (or earthen vessel) to be attached to it, into which the juices of the tree drop and form the liquor called toddy, which is not only a pleasant beverage in its primary state, but is used in making jag-gery (coarse sugar) vinegar and arrack, which, after cinnamon, is the chief article of merchandize in this island.

The inside or soft part of the tree is used for fuel, while the more solid external part is converted into rafters, and the natural net work which surrounds the base of the branches, forms sieves for straining medicinal oils, &c.—The boughs which support the fruit are used as brooms, as well as the husk of the shell, which is sometimes converted into brushes for whitewashing, &c.; the shell itself makes fuel, and the fibres of the husk which encloses it, form coir, another most valuable article of exportation.

The cabbage is fit for almost every culinary purpose, but particularly for pickling; the root is useful in medicine, and the natives occasionally mix it with betel for chewing. The branches of the tree the natives weave into hedges, and sometimes burn for fuel. The ola or leaf is put to a great variety of uses; there are few natives who dwell under any other covering than that which an ola hut affords, and

and most of our Indian readers have witnessed the celerity with which a comfortable bungalow is constructed of the cocoa-nut leaf, even in the most remote districts, on the approach of an European traveller. A cocoa-nut tree planted on the sea-shore, or on low grounds, grows to the height of from sixty to ninety feet, and lives about one hundred and twenty or one hundred and thirty years, while those in a hilly country live about one hundred and fifty, and do not reach so great a height ; these latter do not produce fruit so soon after their being planted as the former.

MISCELLANIES.

DEATH OF A PARSEE AT BOMBAY.

(From the Asiatic Journal.)

WE have copied the following from the Bombay Courier. The deceased was, we learn, a man of the greatest opulence and influence among the native subjects of the British government at Bombay.—On the 21st instant, at half-past two o'clock in the morning, Pestonjee Bomanjee, the well-known and very respectable Parsee merchant, paid the great debt of nature, after having just completed his fifty-eighth year.

He had, for some time, lingered under a very painful and depressing illness, which he bore with great fortitude, cheering his family and friends with the hopes of his recovery to the last. A few hours, however, before his dissolution, he became sensible of the near approach of death; and, in the full possession of his faculties, prepared his surrounding relatives for the awful separation that was about to take place, with a composure and resignation worthy of the most enlightened philosophy, exalted and refined by the most

perfect reliance on the wisdom and goodness of God.

He addressed them with great affection, and with all that strength, clearness, and precision of language, for which he was held in so much estimation through life. He told them that he felt his hour was come, and that as such was the will of the high Providence that watched over them, he submitted himself to his gracious dispensations. That death was the last tribute to be paid in this world—the universal lot of human nature—and that it must be paid sooner or later, when God determined the time, it is therefore the duty of man to submit without further struggle, and to prepare himself for an event which he cannot delay. That as he felt all hopes of recovery were vain, he gave up, as far as man can be supposed to do, the very wish to live; and conjured his friends to imitate him in that resignation which was now his greatest comfort. He desired them to look back on the part he had so long played in life; that if they were satisfied he had conducted himself well, his memory would remain to them as a consolation

lation after he was gone, and that instead of lamenting, they ought rather to give thanks to the Almighty for the prosperity with which he had been crowned, and for the powerful friends by whom he and they were supported both in India and in England. That the same line of conduct which first obtained those blessings, would preserve them; and that he had nothing left to wish for in this world, but a long continuance of that prosperity, which God had been pleased to shew his family, before he took him to himself.

Such was the piety, such the resignation, and such the dignified morality of this dying believer in the religion of Zoroaster. His loss has not been confined to his family and friends; it is felt by the natives of every description. His wealth and his knowledge gave him great power; and he was liberal of both without ostentation. From the earliest period of his life he was trained up in mercantile pursuits; and, of all the Asiatics we have ever known, he was eminently the best acquainted with our language, our customs, and our laws. This enabled him to adjust many disputes among the rich, which might have involved them in ruin; and to relieve many of the poor from that pride of oppression, which is so generally connected with the aristocracy of mere wealth. As the representative of successful industry, wealth indeed cannot be too much respected; but how many accomplishments and how many virtues are required, to refine it into that respectability, which can only result from a

proper use of the power which it bestows.

He was possessed of a very noble figure, an admirable address, and a copious flow of language. No man could possibly present himself in a more dignified or prepossessing manner; and the impression he made from such natural advantages, was uniformly supported by the resources of a sound judgment, and a great variety and extent of information.

From the time his fortune first enabled him to lay out money on building, even to his last illness, he continued to beautify the town and island of Bombay, with houses and gardens; and he may be truly said to have created that taste for an ornamental disposure of their wealth, by which the natives of this country have contributed so much to the comforts of the European population. The gentlemen who have inhabited his numerous and stately houses, will bear ample testimony to the liberality with which he uniformly met their wishes, and adopted their suggestions of improvement, or even alteration; and the greater part of a very considerable fortune is actually vested in this manner.

The day before his death, we understand, he made and published his last will and testament, in which he displayed his usual good sense; and left his affairs in the most orderly arrangement. He adopted his eldest grandson, Dabdhoy, as his own son, according to the custom of his nation, but left his very handsome fortune to be enjoyed equally by both his grandsons, the children of a beloved daughter, whose early loss he

he lamented as the greatest misfortune he had met with in life. She married Nowrojee, the eldest son of Jamsetjee Bomanjee, our venerable naval architect, and head of the Wadia family—a family, which, whether we consider them as British subjects, British merchants, or British architects, have largely contributed to the prosperity and strength of the British empire in India.

ACCOUNT OF A PASSAGE IN AN
OPEN BOAT ACROSS THE BAY OF
BENGAL,

*By the Captain and Boat's Crew of
the Daphne, in 1808.*

(From the same.)

The Daphne brig, Edward Harman, Master, quitted the town of Rangoon on the 28th of October 1808. About sunset on Nov. the 4th, we saw Diamond Island bearing N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W., and at two P.M. on the following day came to an anchor in five and a half fathoms mud. I attended the Captain and six hands to the shore in search of turtle. At the north end of the island we found a small hut, inhabited by five Bhurmans (natives of Pegu) who had been sent here to collect the turtles' eggs for the king of Ava. They were very hospitable to us, and shewed every inclination to oblige us. On returning to the part of the shore on which we landed, we found from the squalliness of the weather, and the height of the surf that we could not reach our boat, then at anchor under the care of one of the men. We made a fire

under a large tree, and obtained some rice and fish from the Bhurmans, on which we made a good supper. The weather continued bad through the night, and to add to our misfortune we only caught one turtle. At day-break next morning, the appearance of the weather indicated an increase of the storm, and we were then soaked to the skin by the rain. The Daphne still rode it out very easy. The Bhurmans supplied us with food. The weather becoming still worse soon after middle day, our boat began to drive, and we were obliged to order the man on board to cut the painter, and let her come on shore. He did so, and with the assistance of the Bhurmans we got her secured high and dry on the beach. We dined with the Burmans, and at dusk, leaving one man to take care of the boat, the rest retired to sleep.—In the middle of the night we were all turned out, as the tide had risen so high, that our boat had flooded, and was driven among the rocks. It was an awful and tremendous night; the gale was furious, accompanied by heavy rain, with a foaming sea all round, and our poor boat was seen on the rocks beating to pieces; there was no time to think: every thing was now at stake. We reached the rocks as speedily as possible, and with a great deal of trouble got her off, but, alas! almost too late, she was nearly beaten to pieces. We remained with her until high water, when we made her fast, went back to the house and slept till day-light. Our first thoughts now were to repair our boat in the best manner possible; and this we effected by pulling a nail out

of one place, and putting it into another, cutting up some rope for oakum and caulking her as well as we could. We were forced to cut up our shirts to assist in caulking her, as we had not oakum enough. Our tools consisted of a knife, a large stone for a hammer, and a piece of wood for a caulking iron. By the time we had completed our job, the rain had ceased, and the face of the heavens began to assume a different appearance. We went to the Bhurmans' house to dine. After dinner the Bhurmans pressed us much to go on board and get them a bag or two of rice, as during our stay on the island we had almost eaten up their stock. They said, if we would give them a little rice, they would help to catch turtle for us. We could not object to their proposal, as we had been living on their provisions so long. We could get no turtles till night; and the weather seeming fine, in the evening about half an hour before sunset we launched our boat and pulled for the brig: but so much had she suffered on the rocks, that we were forced to have one man constantly at work to bale out the water, which came in very rapidly. At sunset we were in the brig's wake, pulling for her. We observed the people on board veering a buoy astern to us, but had the mortification to see ourselves go astern as fast as the buoy did. They could give us no assistance from on board, for they had no boat, and had two anchors down. If they had cut, they certainly must have been on the rocks before they could have been able to manage the vessel. About an hour after dark we saw two lights;

one we supposed to be the vessel's, the other, from its largeness, we imagined to be on shore. We pulled towards the one we took for the brig's. In about half an hour we were extremely alarmed by losing both the lights. We knew not which way to pull; to lay-to was impossible, and we had no hope but in Providence, who is ever attentive to the exertions of unhappy men. We kept pulling and baling all night; once or twice we heard breakers very loud, and we anxiously waited for the morning to know our situation, particularly as the night was cloudy and squally.

At day-light on the 8th we were much surprised to be just in sight of high land to the northward. We judged it to be the northward by the sun's rising, for we had no compass in the boat. The wind we found to be northerly—we in with our oars, up with the foremast, and set the only sail we had—we stood to the eastward all day, and at sunset put about, and stood to the westward—we still saw the land, but it appeared further off—about midnight finding ourselves in rollers we tacked and stood to the eastward—it blew fresh and rather squally, and we were obliged to reef the sail.

When day broke on the 9th, to our mortification there was no land in sight. The Captain and I consulted what was best to be done, and expecting that we should have the wind fresh from the E. and N.E. judged it best to make a fair wind of it, and run for the Coromandel coast. At noon we up helm, and went with a flowing sheet to the westward in hopes of crossing the bay in five days, or
else

else of falling in with some ship. During the day a flying fish dropped into the boat, when all hands jumped at it. Fortune favouring my exertions, I gained the prize and soon devoured it.

Thursday the 10th and Friday the 11th we had fine fresh breezes, chiefly from the eastward, with clear weather. On the 12th we found ourselves so very thirsty that water was much in request by all. Every morning and evening, we bathed ourselves, and during the day kept throwing water over our heads; this allayed our thirst very much, which had now become our greatest enemy. This day we had very light airs from the N.W. with a heavy swell; we expected a gale of wind from that quarter, which if it had come, in all probability would have overwhelmed us, and put us out of our misery. Just before sunset we had the high consolation of observing a vessel bearing N.W.; there being little wind we pulled right for her, and by her movements I believe she saw us, for soon after she came down towards us, with studding sails set, low and aloft. This sight rejoiced us, and infused into us such a degree of temporary strength, as made us pull with double vigour. We thought our troubles at an end, but, alas! Providence ordained that greater misfortunes were still to be endured by us. Captain Harman thinking we did not near the vessel fast enough, ordered our sail to be taken in, supposing that it impeded our going through the water as we were pulling in the wind's eye. No sooner was that done, than the vessel took in her studding

sails and hauled her wind to the eastward. We hoisted our sail again, but to no purpose, she still kept to the eastward, which was a heart-breaking sight to us all. The temporary strength which the sight of her had excited, now forsook us: our spirits sunk, and we could no longer pull. As night approached we stood as nearly as we could judge to the W.N.W. When the vessel hauled her wind to the eastward, we could plainly make out that she was a brig; we saw her top-sails, and part of her courses, main-sail, &c.

Sunday the 13th. This day our thirst was great indeed; we had undergone such fatigue, and were so much weakened, that we expected every hour to be our last. The water thrown over our bodies did not allay our thirst as at first, and being reduced to the last extremity, we were forced to drink our urine, which I must say revived and consoled us exceedingly. Monday and Tuesday nothing happened to break in upon our state of painful suspense. We had the wind light from the northward with a very heavy swell from the N.W.; we still kept bathing every morning and evening, and drinking as before-mentioned.

Wednesday the people began to be very dull. Some of them found their thirst so intolerable that they drank a great quantity of salt water, although the Captain and I advised them not to do so. About ten o'clock at night, we were all roused by hearing the cry of fresh water along-side. One of the people being excessively dry, in drinking the water alongside really thought it had been fresh; we all began

began to drink immediately, and it was some time before we found out our mistake, so much was our taste injured. On the 17th at sunset we thought we saw very high land right ahead, but having been often disappointed by mistaking clouds for high land, we paid but little attention to it. During the night the heavy swell from the N.W. went down, when a cross sea took its place, and a fine breeze sprung up from the eastward.

On Friday at day-light the water was much discoloured, a general sign of being near land, but still none could be seen. One of the men was now so senseless, and so weak, that he could not sit upright. As the sun arose, and cleared away the clouds, we had the heartfelt satisfaction of seeing high land. What a joyful sight was this to poor creatures nearly sinking under fatigue and want of food. As we neared the land, we saw a number of huts and the natives walking on shore. About noon we ran the boat on the beach, but were in a condition too weak to walk. The natives assisted us, and as soon as they knew our situation, fetched us hot congy (the water in which rice is boiled) and gave it us to drink, of which we took a great quantity. Each man was led between two people to the hut appointed to us, and we were furnished with every thing we wished for, except cold water. We had no desire to eat, but craved cold water, which the natives would not give us, but supplied us plentifully with hot congy. Just as we were sitting down on the straw, we were informed that one of our people was dead. It was

the poor man who had been so bad in the morning.

The name of the place at which we arrived, is Poondy. It is situated about sixty miles to the southward of Ganjam, and thirty to the northward of Calingapatam. On the 25th Captain Harman went to Calingapatam to procure a supply of money and clothes from the Beach master at that place. He returned on the 28th, and on the 29th, after furnishing the men with money enough to carry them to Bengal, the Captain and myself started in Doolis carried by four men. We followed the coast and travelled almost without intermission night and day. On the 15th of December we reached Tombuke, when we took a boat for Calcutta, and on going up the river, to our very great astonishment saw our brig at anchor waiting for the flood tide to carry her up. We went alongside, and every soul on board was thunderstruck to see us, having given us up as dead. They waited four days at Diamond Island, expecting our return. In running across the bay they had bad weather, and on seeing any drifts went down to them, expecting they might be the boat. We weighed on the flood and arrived at Kuddupore on the 16th of December, and on the 23d our poor fellow sufferers arrived, looking very well after so long a march.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FUNERAL CEREMONIES OF A BURMAN PRIEST.

Communicated by W. Carey, D. D.

(From the same.)

The manner in which different nations dispose of their dead, is one

one of those circumstances, which have been thought worthy of peculiar notice, by all who have studied the history of man, as it is in most instances connected with the idea which they entertain respecting a future state.

Those nations who believe in the doctrine of the resurrection, practise inhumation. The Hindus and other nations, who believe the doctrine of the metempsychosis, and consider fire as the element which purifies all things, usually burn their dead, with a variety of ceremonies suited to those religious notions which are peculiar to the different sects. The inhabitants of Thibet, differing from most other nations, either totally neglect the bodies of their dead, or treat them in a manner which to us appears highly barbarous.

The Burmans burn their dead like the Hindus, though with a great difference in the method and the attendant ceremonies. With them, the wood of the coffin (which is made larger and stronger than with us) is nearly all the fuel used to consume the bodies of the common people. The Priests, or Poongees, are like them burnt by the wood of their own coffins, but the fire is communicated by means of rockets. As this is a very singular practice, and has not been noticed by any writer whom I have met with, I take the liberty to communicate to the Asiatic Society the following account of the funeral ceremonies of a Poongee or Burman priest, as communicated by my son, Mr. Felix Carey, who resides at Rangoon, and was an eye-witness thereto.

“The man whose funeral ceremonies I am going to describe,

died about two years ago. After the death of a Poongee, the body is embalmed in the following manner. First, the intestines are taken out, after which the body is filled with spices of different kinds, and the opening sewed up. A layer of wax is then laid all over the body, so as to prevent the admission of air; upon that is put a layer composed of lac and some other ingredients, and the whole covered over with leaf-gold. The body of this person was stretched out at full length, with the arms laid over the breast. When one of these people dies, the body is thus prepared at the house where he died. After about 12 months, the corpse is removed to a house built for that purpose, where it is kept a year or two longer, till the Poongees order it to be burnt. At one of these places I saw the body of this man, about a month before it was taken out for the purpose of being destroyed. It was then placed upon a stage, which was in a house made like one of their Kuims, rising in a conical form, and about thirty feet in height. The stage was made of bamboos and wood, and the house which contained it was covered with paper, and overlaid with leaf-gold. By the side of this stage lay the coffin in which the body was to be carried out; this, also, was overlaid with gold, and ornamented with several figures, designed to represent death in a variety of forms. In the court yard two large four-wheeled carriages were preparing, one to carry the coffin, and the other the stage with its apparatus. The carriage in which the corpse was to be drawn had another stage built

built upon it, similar to the one in the house, only it was larger, and fixed upon an elephant, made in a kneeling posture.

When the time for the ceremony approached, the principal people of every street were commanded each to prepare a rocket, and an image (the shape of some animal,) to which the rocket was to be fixed. Besides these large rockets, a great number of smaller ones was also prepared, as well as other fire-works. The Burman new year began either on the 13th or 14th of April, I do not exactly remember which, when the festival celebrated by sprinkling of water commenced, which would have continued six or seven days, had not the viceroy put a stop to it to admit of the burning of this Telapoy. On the 17th, the figures to which the rockets were to be fastened were drawn in procession round the town; and from this day to the end of the ceremony, all the people of the town and its vicinity, both male and female, were compelled to assist. The figures were drawn in procession, one after another, in the following order; first, six or eight flags were carried, these were followed by a number of dancing boys and girls, then the carriages with the figures, some drawn by boys, and others by bullocks, followed; and after them went a number of young women, dancing and singing, with an older woman between each row, to keep them in order. Women were never known to attend such processions before, but this was done in consequence of a particular order from the viceroy. On this occasion even the wives and daughters of the principal officers of

government were obliged to dance, some with umbrellas held over them, and others under an awning large enough to shade forty or fifty persons, and supported by six or eight men; last of all followed the men in like manner, singing, clapping their hands, and dancing, with two men between each row to keep them in order.

The people of each street attended their own carriages, and in this manner proceeded round the town, one company after another. The figures were very large, much larger than the animals they were intended to represent. Some of them were representations of buffaloes, others of bulls, lions, bears, elephants, horses, or men. There were not less than thirty, of a very large size, about thirty feet in height, and a great number of smaller ones.

The next day was spent in drawing the body of the Poongee in his carriage, backwards and forwards, or rather in pulling against each other. All the people, being divided into two parties, drew the corpse, from the place where it formerly was, to an extensive valley, near the hill where it was to be burnt. In the front of the valley the viceroy had a temporary house erected, from which he could view the whole show. Four cables were fastened to the axle-tree of the carriage, two each way; these were held by the people, who every now and then uttered a loud shout and pulled both ways at the same time. That day neither party gained any advantage over the other, till near evening, when one of the cables broke and the opposite party gained the victory.

The

The following day they discharged the large rockets. Early in the morning they carried all the figures and their rockets from the town, and each of these figures was fixed upon a carriage of four wheels, and the rockets were secured, by rattan loops, to strong ropes, which passed between the feet of the animal, so that when discharged, they, sliding on the ropes, ran along the ground. Some of these rockets were from seven to eight feet in length, and from three to four in circumference, made of strong timber, and secured by iron hoops, and rattan lashings. The last of them, when discharged, ran over a boy of ten or twelve years old, who died in a few minutes; three or four grown-up persons were also much hurt. Towards evening a great number of fire-works were discharged, which made a very fine appearance.

The next day was the time appointed for blowing up the corpse. On this occasion, a quarrel arose between the two parties who had pulled the former day; the party which had been unsuccessful insisting that the cables had been cut, and not broken, by the opposite party; they therefore presented a petition to the viceroy, requesting that they might have another trial at pulling. This was granted, upon which, having procured four new Europe cables, from the ships in the harbour, they re-commenced their trial of strength; however, the party which had been victorious before won again, and broke the cables of the other. The unsuccessful party was not yet satisfied, but insisted on another trial of strength,

the following day. That day neither party obtained the victory, upon which the viceroy issued an order to stop the contest, and to burn the Telapoy the next day, which was accordingly done.

That day the corpse was burnt in a temporary house, erected for that purpose, in the shape of a Kuim, with a stage in it upon which the coffin was set to be burnt. This was performed with small rockets, fixed upon ropes with rings of rattan, so as to slide along them, from the top of a hill, to the coffin, which was placed on the top of another hill. The rockets being discharged, slid along the ropes, over the intermediate valley, to the coffin, which was set on fire by them, and, with its contents, quickly consumed."

A SKETCH OF THE GEOGRAPHY OF
COCHIN CHINA,

With some Particulars of the Manners, Customs, and History of the Inhabitants, and a few Considerations on the Importance of forming an Establishment in that Country. By Mr. Chapman.

(From the same.)

I have been imperceptibly led into a detail of much greater length than I intended; yet satisfied, as I am, of the great importance which a settlement in Cochin China might be of to the British nation, and to the Company, I cannot prevail on myself to dismiss the subject, without giving a more connected account of the country, and offering some farther considerations on the advantages

vantages to be made of its situation and productions.

Cochin China, called by the natives Anam, extends from about the twentieth degree of north latitude to Pulo Condore, which lies in eight degrees forty minutes. It is bounded by the kingdom of Tonquin on the north, from which it is separated by the river Sungen; by the kingdom of Laos, and a range of mountains which divides it from Cambodia on the west; and by that part of the eastern ocean, generally called the China Sea, on the south and east.

The kingdom is divided into twelve provinces all lying upon the sea-coast, and succeeding each other from north to south in the following order,

In the possession of the Tonquinese, Ding oie, Cong-bing, Ding-cat, Hué, or the Court.

In the possession of Ignaac, Cham, Cong-nai, Quinion.

Dubious whether subdued by Ignaac, or in the possession of the king. Phuyen, Bing-Khang, Nha-Tong, Bingthoan or Champa.

In the possession of the king, Donai.

The breadth of the country bears no proportion to its length. Few of the provinces extend further than a degree from east to west; some less than twenty miles; Donai, which is properly a province of Cambodia, is much larger.

The whole country is intersected by rivers, which although not large enough to admit vessels of great burthen, yet are exceedingly well calculated for promoting inland commerce. Their streams are gentle, and the water clear.

The climate is healthy, the violent heat of the summer months being tempered by regular breezes from the sea; September, October and November, are the season of the rains. The low lands are then frequently and suddenly overflowed by immense torrents of water which fall from the mountains. The inundations happen generally once a fortnight, and last for three or four days at a time. In December, January, and February, there are also frequent rains, brought by cold northerly winds, which distinguish this country with a winter different from any other in the east.

The inundations have the same effect here as the periodical overflowings of the Nile in Egypt; and render the country one of the most fruitful in the world. In many parts the land produces three crops of grain in the year. All the fruits of India are found here, in the greatest perfection, with many of those of China.

No country in the east, and perhaps none in the world, produces richer, or a greater variety of articles, proper for carrying on an advantageous commerce: cinnamon, pepper, cardamoms, silk, cotton, sugar, aglua wood, (lignum aloës) sapan wood, and ivory, are the principal.

Gold is taken almost pure from the mines, and before the troubles great quantities were brought from the hills in dust, and bartered by the rude inhabitants of them for rice, cloths, and iron. It was from them also the Agula and Calambae woods were procured with quantities of wax, honey and ivory. For some years past, the communication between the hills and the low

low lands have been entirely cut off.

The animals of Cochin China are bullocks, goats, swine, and buffaloes, elephants, camels, and horses. In the woods are found the wild boar, tiger, and rhinoceros, with plenty of deer. The poultry is excellent, and the fish caught on the coast abundant and delicious. The flesh of the elephant, which I never heard that any other nation thought eatable, is accounted a great dainty by the Cochin Chinese; and when the king or the viceroy of a province kills one, pieces are sent about to the principal mandarines as a most acceptable present. The breeding of bullocks is little attended to, their flesh is not esteemed as food, and they are made no use of in tilling the land, which is performed by buffaloes. As for milking their cattle, they are totally unacquainted with the art; strange as this may appear to us, who have been accustomed to find the most savage nations we have discovered, depending for a considerable part of their food on the milk of their cattle and flocks, yet I am inclined to think that the use of it was formerly unknown amongst the nations from the Straits of Malacca eastward; the Malays make no use of milk, the Chinese very little; amongst the latter it was probably introduced by the Tartars.

The Aborigines of Cochin China are called Moyes, and are the people who inhabit the chain of mountains which separates it from Cambodia. To these strong holds they were driven when the present possessors invaded the country. They formerly paid an annual

tribute for the liberty of bringing down the produce of their hills, and bartering it for such commodities as they stood in need of. They are a savage race of people, very black, and resemble in their features, the Caffrees.

Monsieur Le Gae, a Frenchman who was in Cochin China in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty, mentions another race of people, distinct from the Cochin Chinese, who inhabit the province of Champa, called Loys. He also says the Muhammadan is one of the prevailing religions. But from the most particular inquiries I made, I did not find that there are now any people distinguished by that name, and I never met with a Musulman in the country.

It was about the year one thousand two hundred and eighty of the Christian era, that the first Tartar prince became possessed of the throne of China. This revolution afforded an opportunity to the western provinces bordering on the sea, to throw off their dependance, and they were formed into a kingdom under a prince, whose descendant now reigns in Tonquin, and is called Knah-Whang. About the beginning of the fifteenth century, a large body of people from these provinces being disaffected to the Government, joined under a leader of abilities, and marched to the southward. Meeting with little opposition, they soon became masters of Cochin China as far as Cape Avrilla. The Moys, the original inhabitants, retired to the hills bordering their country to the westward, where they have ever since remained. The emigrants, under their conductor, founded the

the kingdom of Cochin China. His successor extended it to the great river of Cambodia, and raised it to a degree of splendor and opulence; the continual wars they were engaged in with the Tonquinese, who considered them as rebels, about one hundred and fifty years ago, induced the Cochin Chinese to build a wall, on the southern extremity of the province of Dingnoi, to prevent the irruptions of the Tonquinese. Every communication by sea was forbidden under the severest penalties. Long wars and mutual jealousies have rendered the Tonquinese and Cochin Chinese inveterate and implacable enemies. In the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four, when the Pocock Indiaman was in Cochin China, the country was in a flourishing condition, and governed by a prince of abilities; soon after her departure, his son, whose misfortunes and fate I have briefly given an account of in the foregoing narrative, succeeded to the throne, and anarchy and confusion ensued.

The Cochin Chinese bear evident marks of being derived from the same stock as the Chinese. They resemble them in their features and in most of their manners and customs: their religion is the same, their oral language, though different, appears formed upon the same principles, and they use the same characters in writing. They are a courteous, affable, inoffensive race, rather inclined to indolence. The ladies are by far the most active; they usually manage all the concerns, while their lazy lords sit upon their haunches, smoking, chew-

ing betel, or sipping tea: contrary to the custom in China, they are not shut up, and if unmarried, a temporary connexion with strangers who arrive in the country is deemed no dishonour. Merchants often employ them as their factors and brokers, and it is said the firmest reliance may be placed on their fidelity.

The habit of the men and women is cut after the same fashion, and is one of the most modest I know of: it is a loose robe buttoning with a small collar round the neck, and folding over the breast like a banyan gown, with large long sleeves which cover the hands. People of rank, and especially the ladies, wear several of these gowns one over the other; the undermost reaches to the ground, the succeeding ones are each shorter than the other, so that the display of the different colours makes a gaudy appearance as they walk along.

Such are the few particulars relative to Cochin China, that occur to me as curious or interesting. It now only remains to shew how a connexion with this country may prove beneficial to my own, and to conclude the subject.

The drain of specie from the Company's settlements in India is become a matter of such serious import, that I make no doubt any plan which may be offered to remedy so growing an evil, will be deemed worthy of consideration. I am sanguine in my expectations that a settlement in Cochin China would conduce to that desirable end, and also be productive of many other advantages.

Our two little vessels brought from Cochin China to the amount of about sixty thousand rupees in gold

gold and silver bullion. Had we been paid for all we sold, the sum would have been much more considerable. The Rumbold, the year before, also brought bullion to a considerable amount. This money was received on account of sales of Bengal and Madras cloths, opium, iron, copper, lead, hardware, and glass. Some inquiries were made for broad cloth, but we unfortunately had none. These are matters of a trifling nature. In the sequel I hope to fix the attention to many of greater importance.

The situation of Cochin China is excellently well adapted to commerce. Its vicinity to China, Tonquin, Japan, Combodia, Siam, the Malay coast, the Philippines, Borneo, the Moluccas, &c. renders the intercourse with all these countries short and easy. The commodious harbours found on the coast, particularly that of Turon, afford a safe retreat for ships of any burden, during the most tempestuous seasons of the year.

The nations of Europe, having hitherto found it impossible to provide cargoes sufficiently valuable to barter for the commodities of China, are obliged to make up the deficiency by sending thither immense quantities of bullion, by which means it has, for a number of years past, drained the eastern and western worlds of their specie. The number of junks annually resorting to Cochin China plainly proves how much the productions of it are in demand among the Chinese. These productions, had we a settlement and a confirmed influence in the country, might with ease be brought to center

with us, purchased with the staples of India and of Europe; Turon would become the emporium for them, where our ships bound to Canton, from whence it is only five days sail, might call and receive them. The quantity procurable it is impossible to determine; whatever it might be, it would prove a saving of so much specie to Great Britain or India, as the value of the commodities amounted to in China; in a few years there is every reason to believe, a very considerable investment might be provided.

Our trade to China has ever been burthened with enormous imposts and exactions; these, under various pretences, are annually increasing, and in process of time may become insupportable. It is an opinion latterly grown current that the Chinese are desirous of totally excluding all Europeans from their country: may we not hazard a conjecture, that the vexations they oblige them to suffer are the premeditated schemes of this politic people to effect it? Were such an event to happen, the want of a settlement to the eastward would be severely felt. The Chinese would export their own commodities, and Java or the Philippines, as the nearest ports, would become the marts for them. As there is no reason to suppose that our inability to procure them from the first hand would hinder their consumption, we must buy them either from the Dutch or from the Spaniards. A settlement in Cochin China will give us a superior advantage to either, both as its situation is nearer, and the Chinese are more accustomed to resort thither; in all

all events there is reason to suppose it will enable us to procure the commodities of China at a much more reasonable rate than now purchased by our factors at Canton, and certainly on less humiliating terms to the nation. Large colonies of Chinese have from time to time emigrated from the parent country and fixed their abode in different parts of Cochin China; these have their correspondents in every seaport of the empire; through their means, teas, China ware, and the various other articles, the objects of our commerce with China, might be imported in junks to our own settlements, equally good in quality, and cheaper, as the Chinese are exempted from the exorbitant duties levied on foreigners. Some of the best workmen might be encouraged to settle in Cochin China, and under their direction manufactories carried to as great a degree of perfection as in China itself.

The intercourse between Japan and Cochin China might be renewed, and we might participate in a trade for many years monopolized by the Dutch.

An advantageous trade might be carried on with the Philippine Islands, and Madras and Bengal goods introduced amongst them by means of the junks for the consumption of Spanish America.

The Siamese and Cambodians would bring the produce of their respective countries and barter or sell them for such articles as they wanted from Cochin China. Amongst them it is probable a vent might be found for quantities of Bengal cloths.

The lower class of people in Co-

chin China are, for the most part, clothed in canvass, a coarse cotton cloth brought from China; but the preference which I had opportunity of observing they gave to Bengal cloths, on account of their being wider and cheaper, would soon induce them to adopt the use of them.

The demand for opium, already, in some measure, become a necessary of life to the Chinese, would increase in proportion to the facility of procuring it. The importation of it no longer confined to Canton, but carried by the junks in every seaport in the country, would spread the demand of this drug to the remotest parts of the empire.

But what inspires the most flattering hopes from an establishment in this country is its rich gold mines; celebrated for ages as producing the richest ore, so pure that the simple action of fire is said to be sufficient to refine it; I omitted no opportunity of making inquiries respecting this valuable article, and was informed that mines were formed in different parts of the northern provinces, particularly in Hué, where the ore lay so near the surface of the earth that it was dug up with little labour. Under the direction of a skilful metallurgist, what might not be expected from such a source?

Great as the commercial advantages are, the political ones resulting from a settlement in Cochin China would be scarce inferior. Turon Bay would not only afford a secure retreat to our Indiamen in case of their losing their passage to China; but from thence we might also intercept the fleets
of

of any hostile power, either going to or returning from that country: we should become formidable neighbours to the Dutch and to the Spaniards, and in the event of a war with either of them, attack with advantage their most valuable settlements. In short, all the arguments in favour of a settlement at Balambangan may with much more propriety be urged for one in Cochin China.

Should any thing that has been said, appear sufficiently well-grounded to induce the Company to form a settlement in Cochin China, it may be effected on principles strictly just and at a small expense. Several of the royal family, besides the Mandarines who were in Bengal, with many officers of the late government, urged me to use my endeavours with the government of Bengal to induce it to afford them assistance, promising a powerful support whenever we should heartily engage in their cause: to restore their lawful sovereign to the throne, would be now a measure so popular, that the sincerity of their offers cannot be doubted. To relieve an unhappy people groaning under the weight of the most cruel oppression would be an act worthy the humanity of the British nation. Fifty European infantry, half that number of artillery, and two hundred sepoys, would be sufficient for this and every other purpose. The natives of Cochin China are infi-

nitely below the inhabitants of Hindustan in military knowledge; I have however no doubt that a body of them well disciplined and regularly paid, would prove as faithful to us, and contribute as much to the security of any possessions which we might acquire to the eastward, as the sepoys do to our territories in India. In case of any distant expeditions, they would be found superior; being entirely free from all religious prejudices, and having no objection to the sea.

While Cochin China remains in its present distracted state, a favourable opening is presented to the first European nation that may attempt to obtain a footing in the country. Three years ago, the French sent a frigate to Turon Bay, and from the pains taken to be informed of the produce and political state of the country, there is strong reason to conclude some such design was in agitation. Since that period, the accurate accounts Mr. Chevalier must have received of Padre Loreiro during his residence with him at Chandernagore, added to the loss of all their settlements in India, will most probably induce them to resume it. If they do not, some other power may adopt the scheme. Should the Company therefore entertain a design of making an establishment in Cochin China, no time should be lost in carrying it into execution. 1778.

P O E T R Y.

PARADISE AND THE PERI.

From Moore's "Lalla Rookh," an Oriental Romance.

ONE morn a Peri at the gate
Of Eden stood disconsolate;
And as she listen'd to the Springs
Of Life within, like music flowing,
And caught the light upon her wings
Through the half-open portal glowing.
She wept to think her recreant race
Should e'er have lost that glorious place:

"How happy," exclaim'd this child of air,
"Are the holy Spirits who wander there,
"Mid flowers that never shall fade or fall!
"Though mine are the gardens of earth and sea,
"And the stars themselves have flowers for me,
"One blossom of Heaven out-blooms them all!

"Though sunny the Lake of cool CASHMERE,
"With its plane-tree Isle reflected clear,
"And sweetly the founts of that Valley fall;
"Though bright are the waters of SING-SU-HAY,
"And the golden floods, that thitherward stray,
"Yet—oh 'tis only the Blest can say
"How the waters of Heaven outshine them all!

"Go, wing thy flight from star to star,
"From world to luminous world, as far
"As the universe spreads its flaming wall;
"Take all the pleasures of all the spheres,
"And multiply each through endless years,
"One minute of Heaven is worth them all!"

The glorious Angel, who was keeping
 The gates of Light, beheld her weeping ;
 And, as he nearer drew and listen'd
 To her sad song, a tear-drop glisten'd
 Within his eyelids, like the spray
 From Eden's fountain, when it lies
 On the blue flow'r, which—Bramins say—
 Blooms no where but in Paradise !
 " Nymph of a fair, but erring line !"
 Gently he said—" One hope is thine.
 " 'Tis written in the Book of Fate,
 " The Peri yet may be forgiven
 " Who brings to this Eternal Gate
 " The Gift that is most dear to Heaven !
 " Go, seek it, and redeem thy sin ;—
 " 'Tis sweet to let the Pardon'd in !"

Rapidly as comets run
 To th' embraces of the Sun :—
 Fleeter than the starry brands,
 Flung at night from angel hands
 At those dark and daring sprites,
 Who would climb th' empyreal heights,
 Down the blue vault the PERI flies,
 And, lighted earthward by a glance
 That just then broke from morning's eyes,
 Hung hovering o'er our world's expanse.

But whither shall the Spirit go
 To find this gift for heav'n ?—" I know
 " The wealth," she cries, " of every urn,
 " In which unnumber'd rubies burn,
 " Beneath the pillars of CHILMINAR ;—
 " I know where the Isles of Perfume are
 " Many a fathom down in the sea,
 " To the south of sun-bright ARABY ;—
 " I know too where the Genii hid
 " The jewell'd cup of their King JAMISHED,
 " With Life's elixir sparkling high—
 " But gifts like these are not for the sky.
 " Where was there ever a gem that shone
 " Like the steps of ALLA's wonderful Throne ?
 " And the Drops of Life—oh ! what would they be
 " In the boundless Deep of Eternity ?"
 While thus she mus'd, her pinions fann'd
 The air of that sweet Indian land,
 Whose air is balm ; whose ocean spreads

O'er coral rocks and amber beds ;
Whose mountains, pregnant by the beam
Of the warm sun, with diamonds teem ;
Whose rivulets are like rich brides,
Lovely, with gold beneath their tides ;
Whose sandal groves and bowers of spice
Might be a Peri's Paradise !

But crimson now her rivers ran

With human blood—the smell of death
Came reeking from those spicy bowers,
And man, the sacrifice of man,

Mingled his taint with every breath
Upwafted from the innocent flowers !
Land of the Sun ! what foot invades
Thy Pagods and thy pillar'd shades—
Thy cavern shrines, and Idol stones,
Thy Monarchs and their thousand Thrones ?

'Tis He of GAZNA—fierce in wrath

He comes, and INDIA'S diadems
Lie scatter'd in his ruinous path.—

His blood-hounds he adorns with gems,
Torn from the violated necks

Of many a young and lov'd Sultana ;
Maidens, within their pure Zenana,
Priests in the very fane he slaughters,
And choaks up with the glittering wrecks
Of golden shrines the sacred waters !

Downward the PERI turns her gaze,
And, through the war-field's bloody haze
Beholds a youthful warrior stand,

Alone, beside his native river,—
The red blade broken in his hand

And the last arrow in his quiver.

“ Live,” said the Conqueror, “ live to share
The trophies and the crowns I bear !”

Silent that youthful warrior stood—

Silent he pointed to the flood

All crimson with his country's blood,

Then sent his last remaining dart,

For answer, to th' Invader's heart.

False flew the shaft, though pointed well ;

The Tyrant liv'd, the Hero fell !—

Yet mark'd the PERI where he lay,

And when the rush of war was past,

Swiftly

Swiftly descending on a ray
Of morning light, she caught the last—
Last glorious drop his heart had shed,
Before its free-born spirit fled !

“ Be this,” she cried, as she wing’d her flight,
“ My welcome gift at the Gates of Light.
“ Though foul are the drops that oft distil
“ On the field of warfare, blood like this,
“ For Liberty shed, so holy is,
“ It would not stain the purest rill,
“ That sparkles among the Bowers of Bliss !
“ Oh ! if there be, on this earthly sphere,
“ A boon, an offering Heaven holds dear,
“ ’Tis the last libation Liberty draws
“ From the heart that bleeds and breaks in her cause !”

“ Sweet,” said the Angel, as she gave
The gift into his radiant hand,
“ Sweet is our welcome of the Brave
“ Who die thus for their native Land.—
“ But see—alas !—the crystal bar
“ Of Eden moves not—holier far
“ Than ev’n this drop the boon must be,
“ That opes the Gates of Heav’n for thee !”

Her first fond hope of Eden blighted,
Now among AFRIC’S Lunar Mountains,
Far to the South, the PERI lighted ;
And sleek’d her plumage at the fountains
Of that Egyptian tide,—whose birth
Is hidden from the sons of earth,
Deep in those solitary woods,
Where oft the Genii of the Floods
Dance round the cradle of their Nile,
And hail the new-born Giant’s smile !
Thence, over EGYPT’S palmy groves,
Her grots, and sepulchres of Kings
The exil’d Spirit sighing roves ;
And now hangs listening to the doves
In warm ROSETTA’S vale—now loves
To watch the moonlight on the wings
Of the white pelicans that break
The azure calm of Mœris’ Lake.
’Twas a fair scene—a Land more bright
Never did mortal eye behold !
Who could have thought, that saw this night
Those valleys and their fruits of gold

Basking in heav'n's serenest light ;—
 Those groups of lovely date-trees bending
 Languidly their leaf-crown'd heads,
 Like youthful maids, when sleep descending
 Warns them to their silken beds ;—
 Those virgin lilies, all the night
 Bathing their beauties in the lake,
 That they may rise more fresh and bright,
 When their beloved Sun's awake ;
 Those ruin'd shrines and towers that seem
 The relics of a splendid dream ;
 Amid whose fairy loneliness
 Nought but the lap-wing's cry is heard,
 Nought seen but (when the shadows, flitting
 Fast from the moon, unsheath its gleam)
 Some purple-wing'd Sultana sitting
 Upon a column, motionless
 And glittering, like an idol bird !—
 Who could have thought, that there, ev'n there,
 Amid those scenes so still and fair,
 The Demon of the Plague hath cast
 From his hot wing a deadlier blast,
 More mortal far than ever came
 From the red desert's sands of flame !
 So quick, that every living thing
 Of human shape, touch'd by his wing,
 Like plants, where the Simoom hath past,
 At once falls black and withering !

The sun went down on many a brow,
 Which, full of bloom and freshness then,
 Is rankling in the pest-house now,
 And ne'er will feel that sun again !
 And oh ! to see th' unburied heaps
 On which the lonely moonlight sleeps—
 The very vultures turn away,
 And sicken at so foul a prey !
 Only the fierce hyæna stalks
 Throughout the city's desolate walks
 At midnight, and his carnage plies—
 Woe to the half-dead wretch, who meets
 The glaring of those large blue eyes
 Amid the darkness of the streets !

" Poor race of Men ! " said the pitying Spirit,
 " Dearly ye pay for your primal Fall—
 " Some flow'ret of Eden ye still inherit,
 " But the train of the Serpent is over them all ! "

She wept—the air grew pure and clear
Around her, as the bright drops ran ;
For there's a magic in each tear,
Such kindly Spirits weep for man !

Just then beneath some orange trees,
Whose fruit and blossoms in the breeze
Were wantoning together, free,
Like age at play with infancy—
Beneath that fresh and springing bower,
Close by the Lake, she heard the moan
Of one who, at this silent hour,
Had thither stol'n to die alone.

One who in life, where'er he mov'd,
Drew after him the hearts of many ;
Yet now, as though he ne'er were lov'd,
Dies here, unseen, unwept by any !
None to watch near him—none to slake
The fire that in his bosom lies,
With ev'n a sprinkle from that lake,
Which shines so cool before his eyes.
No voice, well-known through many a day,
To speak the last, the parting word,
Which, when all other sounds decay,
Is still like distant music heard.
That tender farewell on the shore
Of this rude world, when all is o'er,
Which cheers the spirit, ere its bark
Puts off into the unknown Dark.

Deserted youth ! one thought alone
Shed joy around his soul in death—
That she, whom he for years had known,
And lov'd, and might have call'd his own,
Was safe from this foul midnight's breath ;
Safe in her father's princely halls,
Where the cool airs from fountain falls,
Freshly perfum'd by many a brand
Of the sweet wood from India's land,
Were pure as she whose brow they fann'd.

But see,—who yonder comes by stealth,
This melancholy bower to seek,
Like a young envoy, sent by Health,
With rosy gifts upon her cheek ?
'Tis she—far off, through moonlight dim,
He knew his own betrothed bride,

She,

She, who would rather die with him,
 Than live to gain the world beside!—
 Her arms are round her lover now,
 His livid cheek to hers she presses,
 And dips, to bind his burning brow,
 In the cool lake her loosen'd tresses.
 Ah! once, how little did he think
 An hour would come, when he should shrink
 With horror from that dear embrace,
 Those gentle arms, that were to him
 Holy as is the cradling place
 Of Eden's infant cherubim!
 And now he yields—now turns away,
 Shuddering as if the venom lay
 All in those proffer'd lips alone—
 Those lips that, then so fearless grown,
 Never until that instant came
 Near him unask'd or without shame.
 "Oh! let me only breathe the air,
 "The blessed air, that's breath'd by thee,
 "And, whether on its wings it bear
 "Healing or death, 'tis sweet to me!
 "There,—drink my tears, while yet they fall,—
 "Would that my bosom's blood were balm,
 "And, well thou know'st, I'd shed it all,
 "To give thy brow one minute's calm.
 "Nay, turn not from me that dear face—
 "Am I not thine—thy own lov'd bride—
 "The one, the chosen one, whose place
 "In life or death is by thy side!
 "Think'st thou that she, whose only light,
 "In this dim world, from thee hath shone,
 "Could bear the long, the cheerless night,
 "That must be hers, when thou art gone?
 "That I can live, and let thee go,
 "Who art my life itself?—No, no—
 "When the stem dies, the leaf that grew
 "Out of its heart must perish too!
 "Then turn to me, my own love, turn,
 "Before like thee I fade and burn;
 "Cling to these yet cool lips, and share
 "The last pure life that lingers there!"
 She fails—she sinks—as dies the lamp
 In charnel airs or cavern-damp,
 So quickly do his baleful sighs
 Quench all the sweet light of her eyes!
 One struggle—and his pain is past—
 Her lover is no longer living!

One kiss the maiden gives, one last,
 Long kiss, which she expires in giving !

“ Sleep,” said the PERI, as softly she stole
 The farewell sigh of that vanishing soul,
 As true as e’er warm’d a woman’s breast—
 “ Sleep on, in visions of odour rest,
 “ In balmier airs than ever yet stirr’d
 “ Th’ enchanted pile of that holy bird,
 “ Who sings at the last his own death lay,
 “ And in music and perfume dies away !”

Thus saying, from her lips she spread
 Unearthly breathings through the place,
 And shook her sparkling wreath, and shed
 Such lustre o’er each paly face,
 That like two lovely saints they seem’d
 Upon the eve of dooms-day taken
 From their dim graves, in odour sleeping ;—
 While that benevolent PERI beam’d
 Like their good angel, calmy keeping
 Watch o’er them, till their souls would waken !

But morn is blushing in the sky ;
 Again the PERI soars above,
 Bearing to Heav’n that precious sigh
 Of pure, self-sacrificing love.
 High throb’d her heart, with hope elate,
 The Elysian palm she soon shall win,
 For the bright Spirit at the gate
 Smil’d as she gave that offering in ;
 And she already hears the trees
 Of Eden, with their crystal bells
 Ringing in that ambrosial breeze
 That from the Throne of ALLA swells ;
 And she can see the starry bowls
 That lie around that lucid lake,
 Upon whose banks admitted Souls
 Their first sweet draught of glory take !

But ah ! e’en Peri’s hopes are vain—
 Again the Fates forbade, again
 Th’ immortal barrier clos’d—“ Not yet,”
 The Angel said as, with regret,
 He shut from her that glimpse of glory—
 “ True was the maiden, and her story,
 “ Written in light o’er ALLA’s head,
 “ By seraph eyes shall long be read.

“ But, PERI, see—the crystal bar
“ Of Eden moves not—holier far
“ Than ev’n this sigh the boon must be
“ That opes the Gates of Heav’n for thee.”

Now, upon SYRIA’s land of roses
Softly the light of Eve reposes,
And, like a glory, the broad sun
Hangs over sainted LEBANON ;
Whose head in wintry grandeur towers,
And whitens with eternal sleet,
While summer in a vale of flowers,
Is sleeping rosy at his feet.

To one, who look’d from upper air
O’er all th’ enchanted regions there,
How beauteous must have been the glow,
The life, the sparkling from below !
Fair gardens, shining streams, with ranks
Of golden melons on their banks,
More golden where the sun-light falls ;—
Gay lizards, glittering on the walls
Of ruin’d shrines, busy and bright
As they were all alive with light ;—
And, yet more splendid, numerous flocks
Of pigeons, settling on the rocks,
With their rich restless wings, that gleam
Variously in the crimson beam
Of the warm west,—as if inlaid
With brilliants from the mine, or made
Of tearless rainbows, such as span
Th’ unclouded skies of PERISTAN !
And then, the mingling sounds that come,
Of shepherd’s ancient reed, with hum
Of the wild bees of PALESTINE,
Banquetting through the flowery vales ;—
And, JORDAN, those sweet banks of thine,
And woods, so full of nightingales !

But nought can charm the luckless PERI ;
Her soul is sad—her wings are weary—
Joyless she sees the sun look down
On that great Temple, once his own,
Whose lonely columns stand sublime,
Flinging their shadows from on high,
Like dials, which the wizard, Time,
Has rais’d to count his ages by !

Yet haply there may lie conceal'd
 Beneath those Chambers of the Sun,
 Some amulet of gems, anneal'd
 In upper fires, some tablet seal'd
 With the Great Name of SOLOMON,
 Which, spell'd by her illumin'd eyes,
 May teach her where, beneath the moon,
 In earth or ocean lies the boon,
 The charm, that can restore so soon,
 An erring Spirit to the skies !

Cheer'd by this hope she bends her thither ;—
 Still laughs the radiant eye of Heaven,
 Nor have the golden bowers of Even
 In the rich West begun to wither ;—
 When, o'er the vale of BALBEC winging
 Slowly, she sees a child at play,
 Among the rosy wild-flowers singing,
 As rosy and as wild as they ;
 Chasing, with eager hands and eyes,
 The beautiful blue damsel-flies,
 That flutter'd round the jasmine stems,
 Like winged flowers or flying gems :
 And, near the boy, who tir'd with play
 Now nestling 'mid the roses lay,
 She saw a wearied man dismount
 From his hot steed, and on the brink
 Of a small imaret's rustic fount
 Impatient fling him down to drink.
 Then swift his haggard brow he turn'd
 To the fair child, who fearless sat,
 Though never yet hath day-beam burn'd
 Upon a brow more fierce than that,—
 Sullenly fierce—A mixture dire,
 Like thunder-clouds, of gloom and fire !
 In which the PERI's eye could read
 Dark tales of many a ruthless deed ;
 The ruin'd maid—the shrine profan'd—
 Oaths broken—and the threshold stain'd
 With blood of guests !—*there* written, all,
 Black as the damning drops that fall
 From the denouncing Angel's pen,
 Ere Mercy weeps them out again !

Yet tranquil now that man of crime,
 (As if the balmy evening time
 Soften'd his spirit,) look'd and lay,
 Watching the rosy infant's play :—

Though,

Though, still, whene'er his eye by chance
Fell on the boy's, its lurid glance

Met that unclouded, joyous gaze,
As torches, that have burnt all night
Through some impure and godless rite,
Encounter morning's glorious rays.

But hark ! the vesper call to prayer,
As slow the orb of day-light sets,
Is rising sweetly on the air,

From SYRIA's thousand minarets !
The boy has started from the bed
Of flowers, where he had laid his head,
And down upon the fragrant sod

Kneels, with his forehead to the south,
Lisping th' eternal name of God

From purity's own cherub mouth,
And looking, while his hands and eyes
Are lifted to the glowing skies,
Like a stray babe of Paradise,
Just lighted on that flowery plain,
And seeking for its home again !

Oh 'twas a sight—that Heav'n—that Child—
A scene, which might have well beguil'd
Ev'n haughty EBLIS of a sigh
For glories lost and peace gone by !

And how felt he, the wretched Man
Reclining there—while memory ran
O'er many a year of guilt and strife,
Flew o'er the dark flood of his life,
Nor found one sunny resting-place,
Nor brought him back one branch of grace !
“ There was a time,” he said in mild,
Heart-humbled tones—“ thou blessed child !
“ When young and haply pure as thou,
“ I look'd and pray'd like thee—but now—”
He hung his head—each nobler aim

And hope and feeling, which had slept
From boyhood's hour, that instant came
Fresh o'er him, and he wept—he wept !

Blest tears of soul-felt penitence !

In whose benign, redeeming flow
Is felt the first, the only sense

Of guiltless joy that guilt can know.

“ There's a drop,” said the PERI, “ that down from the
“ moon

“ Falls through the withering airs of June

“ Upon

" Upon EGYPT's land, of so healing a power
 " So balmy a virtue, that ev'n in the hour
 " That drop descends, contagion dies,
 " And health reanimates earth and skies!—
 " Oh, is it not thus, thou man of sin,
 " The precious tears of repentance fall
 " Though foul thy fiery plagues within,
 " One heavenly drop hath dispell'd them all!"
 And now—behold him kneeling there
 By the child's side, in humble prayer,
 While the same sun-beam shines upon
 The guilty and the guiltless one,
 And hymns of joy proclaim through Heaven
 The triumph of a Soul forgiven!

'Twas when the golden orb had set,
 While on their knees they linger'd yet,
 There fell a light, more lovely far
 Than ever came from sun or star
 Upon the tear that, warm and m^ost,
 Dew'd that repentant sinner's cheek:
 To mortal eye this light might seem
 A northern flash or meteor beam—
 But well th' enraptur'd PERI Jew
 'Twas a bright smile the Ang^{el} threw
 From Heaven's gate, to hail that tear
 Her harbinger of glory near

" Joy, joy for ever! my task is done—
 " The Gates are pass'd, and Heaven is won!
 " Oh! am I not happy? I am, I am—
 " To thee, sweet Ede! how dark and sad
 " Are the diamond towers of SHADUKIAM,
 " And the fragrant towers of AMBERABAD!

" Farewell, ye odour of Earth, that die,
 " Passing away like a lover's sigh;—
 " My feast is now of the Tooba Tree,
 " Whose scent is the breath of Eternity!

" Farewell ye vanishing flowers, that shone
 " In my fairy wreath, so bright and brief,—
 " Oh, what are the brightest that e'er have blown,
 " To the lote tree, springing by ALLA's Throne,
 " Whose flowers have a soul in every leaf!
 " Joy, joy for ever!—my task is done—
 " The Gates are pass'd, and Heav'n is won!"

THE BURIAL OF SIR JOHN MOORE,

WHO FELL AT THE BATTLE OF CORUNNA, IN 1808.

Not a drum was heard, nor a funeral note,
As his corse to the rampart we hurried,
Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot
O'er the grave where our hero was buried.

We bled him darkly at dead of night,
The seas with our bayonets turning,
By the struggling moon-beam's misty light,
And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin enclosed his breast,
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we bound him;
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest,
With his martial cloak around him.

Few and short were the prayers we said,
And we spoke not a word of sorrow,
But we steadfastly gazed on the face of the dead,
And we bitterly thought of the morrow.

We thought, as we hollowed his narrow bed,
And smooth'd down his lonely pillow,
That the foe and the stranger would tread o'er his head,
And we far away in the billow.

Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's gone,
And o'er his cold ashes upbraid him,
But nothing he'll reck if they let him sleep on
In the grave where a Briton has laid him.

But half of our heavy task was done,
When the clock toll'd the hour for retiring;
And we heard by the distant and random gun,
That the foe was suddenly firing.

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,
From the field of his fame fresh and gory:
We carved not a line, we raised not a stone,
But we left him alone with his glory.

MR. CAMPBELL'S ODE ON THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. J. P. KEMBLE.

Pride of the British stage,
A long and last Adieu !
Whose image brought th' heroic age
Reviv'd to fancy's view.

Like fields refresh'd with dewy light,
When the Sun smiles his last,
Thy parting presence makes more bright
Our memory of the past.

And memory conjures feelings up,
That wine or music need not swell,
As high we lift the festal cup,
To "Kemble, fare thee well."

His was the spell o'er hearts,
Which only acting lends—
The youngest of the sister arts
Where all their beauty blends.

For ill can Poetry express
Full many a tone of thought sublime ;
And Painting, mute and motionless,
Steals but one glance from Time.

But, by the mighty Actor brought,
Illusion's wedded triumphs come—
Verse ceases to be airy thought,
And Sculpture to be dumb.

Time may again revive,
But ne'er efface the charm,
When Cato spoke in him alive,
Or Hotspur kindled warm.

What soul was not resign'd entire
To the deep sorrows of the Moor !
What English heart was not on fire,
With him at Agincourt ?

And yet a majesty possess'd
His transports most impetuous tone,
And to each passion of his breast
The Graces gave their zone.

High were the task—too high,
Ye conscious bosoms here,
In words to paint your memory,
Of Kemble and of Lear.

But who forgets that white discrowned head,
Those bursts of Reason's half extinguish'd glare,
Those tears upon Cordelia's bosom shed,
In doubt more touching than despair?

If t'was reality he felt—
Had Shakspeare's self amidst you been,
Friends, he had seen you melt!
And triumph'd to have seen.

And there was many an hour
Of blended kindred fame,
When Siddons's auxiliar power,
And sister magic came.

Together at the Muse's side
Her tragic Paragons had grown—
They were the children of her pride,
The columns of her throne.

And undivided favour ran
From heart to heart in their applause—
Save for the gallantry of man,
In lovelier woman's cause.

Fair as some classic dome,
Robust and richly grac'd,
Your Kemble's spirit was the home
Of Genius and of Taste—

Taste, like the silent dial's power,
That when supernal light is given,
Can measure Inspiration's hour,
And tell its height in Heaven.

At once ennobled and correct,
His mind survey'd the tragic page,
And what the actor could effect,
The scholar could presage:

These were his traits of worth—
And must we lose them now?
And shall the scene no more show forth
His sternly pleasing brow?

Alas ! the moral brings a tear—
'Tis all a transient hour below,
And we that would detain thee here,
Ourselves as fleetly go.

Yet shall our latest age
This parting scene review—
Pride of the British stage,
A long and last adieu !

THE END.

